

Piedmont Technical College Summer 2012 Volume 3 • Issue 1

CareerFocus™

Higher Education Starts Here

Advantages for Transfer Students

Putting Touch Back into Health Care

A Career in Massage Therapy

More education = More opportunity

Today's good jobs require more than high school



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Is College a Good Investment?

When the Pew Research Center surveyed Americans about their views on college, 5 percent said the higher education system provides excellent value, 35 percent said the higher education system provides good value, 42 percent said the value is fair, and 15 percent said the value is not good.

With soaring college costs, some might wonder if higher education is worth the time and expense.

Avoid big tuition bills

Research found that a typical student with loans graduates from a four-year college with a balance of \$23,000 in debt. However, according to the College Board, with aid and federal income tax benefits accounted for, the average tuition and fee cost is close to zero for the majority

of students attending community and technical colleges.

The Payoff

The Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census data found that the average high school graduate with no additional education earns approximately \$770,000 during a 40-year work life. Those with a two-year associate degree earn approximately \$1 million during that time frame, and a worker with a bachelor's degree earns approximately \$1.4 million. The figures include the cost of time and money spent to obtain a college degree.

“So is it worth it to forego about \$50,000, the estimated earnings lost while studying for an associate degree in order to boost one’s earnings over the long haul by \$230,000?” asks Richard Fry, a researcher with the Pew Research Center study. “I think many students and their families think this is a pretty good use compared to other risky alternative investments they might make.”

See “Is College Worth It?” at pewresearch.org

Student Debt Continues to Rise

The cost of a college education has been rising faster than inflation for decades, but some colleges are better bargains than others—so would-be students should

shop carefully. A college education doesn’t have to include loads of student loan debt.

According to a November 2010 survey by the Pew Research Center, college students are taking on more debt than ever and private, for-profit colleges, which tend to charge more than publicly supported community colleges and universities, are one of the reasons for the increase.

Students who attend for-profit colleges are more likely than other students to borrow, and they typically borrow larger amounts.

At private colleges (for-profit and non-profit) about 25 percent of certificate and associate degree students borrowed more than \$20,000. Only 5 percent of comparable public college students borrowed that much.

In 2008, 60 percent of all graduates borrowed for their education, compared with 52 percent in 1996.



The average loan for a bachelor’s degree was more than \$23,000 in 2008, compared with \$17,000 in 1996.

24 percent of 2008 bachelor’s degree graduates at for-profit schools borrowed more than \$40,000, compared with 5 percent of graduates at public institutions and 14 percent at private not-for-profit schools.

Source: “The Rise of College Student Borrowing” pewsocialtrends.org

More in the Middle

Middle-skill jobs, which require more than high school, but less than a four-year degree, make up the largest part of America’s

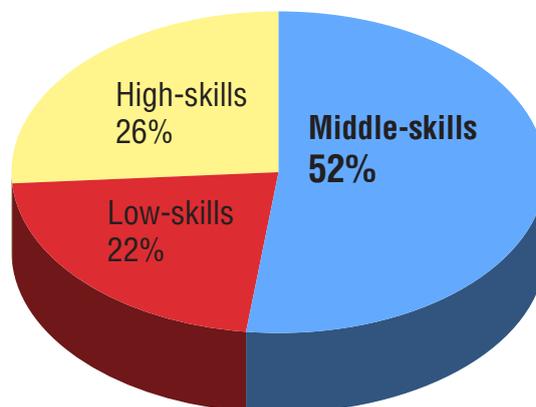
and South Carolina’s labor market. All too often, key industries in South Carolina are unable to find enough sufficiently trained workers to fill these jobs.

These are the so-called middle-skills jobs that pay off in challenging and interesting work that requires specialized skills, pay good wages and offers stable employment.

Nationally, about 45 percent of all job openings are middle-skill level, compared to one-third in highly skilled jobs and just 22 percent in occupations that require only a high school degree.

These jobs include many health care and technical occupations that typically pay from \$30,000 to \$50,000 and up, with most requiring an associate degree.

Middle Skills Jobs are a Big Slice of the Pie



From the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce

Middle-skills jobs offer good pay

\$48,700 Radiologic Technician

\$35,100 Welder

\$54,600 Funeral Director

Median Pay From U.S. Department of Labor



CareerFocus™

Questions about the PTC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Office of Admissions at (864) 941-8369. Comments or questions about the publication itself can be directed to the PTC Office of Marketing and Public Relations at (864)941-8541.

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Institutional Mission

Piedmont Technical College transforms lives and strengthens communities by providing opportunities for intellectual and economic growth.

The College, a member of the South Carolina Technical College and Comprehensive Education System, is a public comprehensive two-year post-secondary institution. Piedmont Technical College contributes to the economic growth and development of the largest and most diverse region of the technical college system, Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties and to the state. The College enrolls approximately 4,500 to 5,500 credit students. The College responds to the academic, training and public service needs of the community through excellence in teaching and educational services. Piedmont Technical College's open admissions policy provides accessibility for individuals with diverse backgrounds the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills for employment in engineering technology, industrial technology, agriculture, business, health and public service. Piedmont Technical College graduates develop competencies in communication, mathematics, problem solving and technology.

The College offers university transfer; associate degrees, diplomas and certificates in technical and occupational areas; developmental education programs; student development programs providing academic, career and individual support; and custom-designed Continuing Education programs provide training for business and industry.

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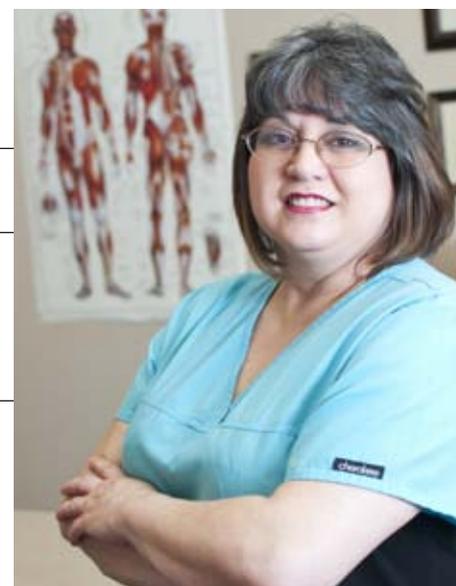
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On the cover:
Jennifer Scott
2010 Massage Therapy Grad



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You Make Me Crazy!

What to do when personalities clash at work

Bob wishes he'd left his position in a Fortune 500 company long before he did. "My boss was unreal," he says. "The guy was just mean. He thought everyone else was stupid and told us so every day. It was almost like he wanted to see someone cry – and the whole team was made up of men."

Bob isn't alone. Difficult personalities come in a wide array of shapes, colors and sizes and as a result, workplace conflict is common. The average American spends approximately 1,800 hours a year at work: Why spend that time in misery?

Do you work with a jerk?

Francie Dalton, a consultant who specializes in communication, management and behavioral sciences, has identified a handful of distinct styles of dysfunctional behavior in the workplace. For instance, "Commanders" have great ability to implement, but are the stereotypical control freaks. They're demanding and domineering, abrupt to the point of rudeness. And "Attackers" like Bob's boss, are often the most demoralizing influence at work. They think they're superior to others, and their attacks are personal.

The list of other personality types Dalton says you're likely to encounter on the job include:

- **Performers** who are delightful, charming and flamboyant, Performers make us laugh but their need for the limelight can drive them to take credit for others' accomplishments.
- **Avoiders** who are quiet and reserved. Criticism is what Avoiders are avoiding when they avoid taking initiative and any visibility. They like to work alone.
- **Analyticals** are cautious and precise, their obsession with details puts them at a snails pace. Urgency causes Analyticals to slow down.
- **Pleasers** are thoughtful, pleasant folks but their need to please keeps them from saying no, even when necessary. They can't deal with conflict.

While it's helpful to identify your co-workers' types, what can you do when they're driving you insane?

First, calm down

Sure, you might be tempted to burn your Attacker boss's files in the break room or do something else dramatic and gratifying. It's normal to want to retaliate or vent, but the satisfaction is short lived. The smoke alarms go off and your problems are exacerbated by unemployment.

No, it's best to address workplace conflict as soon as you can because left unaddressed, they won't just go away. You can start with an honest assessment of your situation.

Caro Handley, who writes about work and career issues for ivillage.co.uk, says that 90 percent of workplace problems can be sorted out in a straightforward way. Handley encourages people to first take responsibility for their part in the problem, then come to a place where they believe the issues can be solved. It's helpful, she says, to try to see the other person in a good light and that doesn't mean the light of a break room fire. Rethinking our viewpoint is a challenge to most people, but it is a stepping stone towards personal growth and maturity.

Communicate

Susan Heathfield, a management and organization development consultant specializing in human resource systems, agrees that workplace issues need quick and compassionate action. She offers more steps toward resolution.

Heathfield says that first you should examine your part in the conflict, especially if you're the only one bothered by this person. This will give you perspective on the whole story here. Some honest introspection can help you change what you can – yourself.

Next, brainstorm solutions with a friend or trusted colleague. This will also empower you and make you part of the solution.

Finally, direct communication can do wonders. Talk to difficult co-workers respectfully, and in private. Stay calm no matter what, and

listen to what they say. Tell them how their actions affect you, and thank them for being open to discussion and solutions. Use good manners, even if you want to strangle them.

Lighten up

On the other hand direct, public confrontation can be disastrous, especially with Commanders and Attackers. But if you have a gift of spontaneous humor, sometimes you can use it to your benefit.

"Dave" tells a story of going to work without his new dentures because they were too painful to wear. When he accidentally bumped into a particularly grouchy co-worker, the man took offense and demanded an apology. Dave, embarrassed without his teeth, tried to avoid responding but the co-worker escalated and told him to "bite me."

"Well, I don't have any teeth," Dave replied. "Can I just gum it?"

Use good manners, even if you want to strangle your co-workers.

Everyone laughed. Dave's natural ability for humor and humility deflected a potential disaster.

Follow up

If you've done your best to personally address a difficult co-worker and things aren't getting better it's time to involve management, even if the person in question is your superior.

Request a private meeting with management. To avoid being labeled as a thin-skinned complainer, clarify that your goal is to put the needs of the company first and this bothersome conflict is making it difficult. Make sure to include the details of your earlier attempts, and management should be willing to step in and mediate.

If this doesn't work, the next step is to protect yourself with limited contact, while also protecting the needs of the business.

An interdepartmental transfer is a convenient way to ditch a bully. Bob did just that and now watches from the next department while his previous co-workers duck and run for cover.

And of course, if you just can't take the stress, you have the option of finding another job. Weigh out the benefits and disadvantages and if the bad outweighs the good, it's certainly an option to start a stealth job search. The real key is to take positive, proactive action.

After all, the difficult co-worker you ignore today could turn out to be the boss you can't escape tomorrow. **CF**



Up Close and Personal

Making real connections is key to job search success

A recent report by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that during the Great Recession, unemployed people spent about half of their lost work hours on sleep and leisure activities. The amount they dedicated to finding a job? About 1 percent.

With jobs scarce and the economy weakening, it's hard to stay engaged in your job search. But according to experts, persistence will pay off. "A lot of the fundamentals of a job search only work if you push through your discouragement and give them a chance," says Michael Petras,

executive recruiter and author of "Why Don't They Call Me?" "Get up early, just like you're going to work. Take a

and 90 percent of it should be out there in person. Go to networking events, check with your local Chamber of Commerce, join a professional organization or even a book club—just get yourself out there. Because at the end of the day, people hire who they know, and who they trust."

Attend networking events and professional organizations, and be proactive, says Martha Finney, HR consultant and author of "Money with Meaning." "Don't just hang around — make yourself useful. Tap into your enthusiasm, your smarts, your energy. Volunteer for committees or the annual conference. They'll be happy to see you, and eventually somebody will say,

'Boy, I'd like to see that person in my office.'"

Show your worth

Dowd-Higgins agrees, "You've got to be your own best self-advocate in your job search. It's not enough to describe yourself as a hard worker or a people person. At this level, that's almost a given. You've got to define your skills and make yourself unique. There are millions of people out there looking for jobs, so if you can create this wonderful picture of what you do well and why you're valuable to an organization, you're going to stand out."

According to Finney, you can continually enhance your value to employers even if you're out of work. "Do project work as a freelancer. Or develop your skills and experience by volunteering for a nonprofit. If an employer sees that you care enough to donate time to something, it's going to give you that extra sheen—and a fresh story to tell the people you're interviewing with. It also builds up your confidence, and negates some of the negative self-talk that comes with being unemployed."

According to Petras, one of the best ways to handle the emotional toll of unemployment is also a key to finding a job. "You need to connect with people—especially over the phone or in person—on a daily basis. You need to let everybody know that you're looking for work. Start with childhood friends, college friends, people

10% of your job search should be conducted **ONLINE**



90% of it should be out there **IN PERSON**

- Go to networking events
- Check with your local Chamber of Commerce
- Join a professional organization or even a book club—just get yourself out there

Because at the end of the day, people hire who they KNOW and who they TRUST

shower, get dressed, and have a plan every day. If you continually expose yourself to other people and opportunities, you are eventually going to find something."

Connection matters

Caroline Dowd-Higgins, career coach and author of "This Is Not the Career I Ordered" says, "It's tempting to just do your job search from behind a computer screen, and websites like Monster and CareerBuilder are so helpful. But thousands of people are applying for those same jobs, so you've got to have a multi-pronged approach.

"Experts say that 10 percent of your job search should be conducted online,

who go to your church—anyone who knows and trusts you. It's human nature that people will want to help.

"A lot of people are nervous about asking for help. They isolate themselves, because they're embarrassed that they haven't been able to find a job. But when you talk to people, you get energy and ideas. And even if they can't help you directly, it's amazing how somebody knows somebody who may be able to open a door for you." **CF**



Putting Touch Back into Health Care

A Career in Massage Therapy

An interest in health and wellness, a solid understanding of how the human body works and a desire to help people are the perfect combination for a successful career in massage therapy. And right now, massage therapy is one of the fastest growing career fields in the nation.

Much more than just a back rub

“Massage therapists provide maintenance in a world that is structured for stress,” said Michelle

Liggett, Massage Therapy program coordinator and instructor. “We provide a release, both mentally and physically.”

Liggett said that it’s often an eye-opener for students when they begin to see how much of an impact massage therapy can have on the quality of their clients’ lives, not to mention their own.

“This is an occupation where everyone wins,” Liggett said.

In the recent past, massage therapy has served as a stepping stone into other medical fields for some students.

Liggett said that today, more students are going into massage as a primary occupation.

“Holistic approaches toward wellness like massage therapy are becoming a much more integral part of health care in the U.S.—both due to the incredible physiological benefits, and the rising costs of medical treatment,” she said.

Recognition of massage therapy as an ancillary treatment and preventive measure by the broader medical community is growing. Medical practitioners from dentists and doctors, to chiropractors and surgeons are now employing massage therapists or referring their patients to therapists for everything from temporomandibular joint disorder to carpal tunnel syndrome.

Liggett said, “Massage therapy is more than just a Swedish massage these days. It requires you to know how movement occurs so rehabilitation can take place. This means therapists are also pain managers and must understand muscles, their origin, insertion, and action.”

PTC students learn more than just a therapeutic stroke. They must learn basic pharmacology, anatomy and

physiology, kinesiology, pathology, and medical terminology so that they can critically determine what the best course of treatment is for each client.

Graduates from the Massage Therapy program have gone on to find jobs in a wide variety of settings—from health care, to spas, cruise lines and fitness centers.

Completion of a certificate in Massage Therapy at PTC prepares students to sit for testing through the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.

A Satisfying, Flexible Career

“Massage therapy has been and will be around a long time,” said Liggett. “Some of the oldest written texts about the practice are approximately 4,000 years old, and specific massage modalities, such as Reflexology, have been depicted in Egyptian hieroglyphs as forms of hand and foot therapy. Today, there has definitely been a resurgence regarding massage as a form of medical treatment.”

As a career, massage therapy offers great flexibility. Therapists can work full or part time, and the career offers portability—the skills learned at PTC are marketable anywhere.



The field can definitely be financially rewarding. Depending on capacity, where, and for whom a person works as an employee or contracted professional, therapists can make anywhere from \$11.90 to \$120.00 per hour to \$60,000 a year.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor in 2010, employment for massage therapists is expected to increase 19 percent from 2008 to 2018, faster than average for all occupations.

“Most of all though, aside from income realized,” Liggett said, “massage therapists enjoy knowing they have helped restore someone back to better health.”

“Our motto in the Massage Therapy program is: *We Put Touch Back Into Health Care!*” said Liggett. “This is a great ongoing exchange for both therapists and clients.”

Students receive ‘hands-on’ training at Piedmont Tech

Students in the Massage Therapy program receive individualized attention in classes with 12-24 students.

Students complete 40 credit hours of instruction, to include lab and 50 additional hours of real-world experience on their own.

To this end, the program provides a community service massage therapy clinic beginning the second semester in January each year, running to a third semester in August. The operational

clinic is run completely by the students under Liggett’s supervision, providing everything from Swedish, hot stones, prenatal, and deep tissue, to neuromuscular therapy, lymphatic drainage, and reflexology.

“At the clinic students evaluate client medical history, perform consultations, assess and chart individual needs, deliver therapy, manage health care records, schedule appointments, and provide follow-up treatment. All-in-all, it’s more than giving a rubdown and asking for a service fee. It’s labor and educationally intensive,” Liggett states.

The three semester day program for a certificate in massage therapy begins in the fall and ends the following fall. Liggett encourages anyone interested in the program to contact the PTC admissions office, as soon as possible. Classes fill up fast and the program can only take a total of 24 students.

According to Liggett, “This is a great career choice for anyone with an interest in wellness and in helping others regain a sense of control over their own personal health. Feeling better across the board in total body is the goal for most people. Nobody likes living in pain, whether it’s induced psychologically or manifested in the physical body. Becoming a massage therapist is a very satisfying occupation because it reaches out to a community so desperately in need of relief.”

For more information, call (855) 682-7094 or visit www.ptc.edu/massage

It’s often an eye-opener for students when they begin to see how much of an impact massage therapy can have on the quality of their clients’ lives, not to mention their own.



Alumni Profile

Jennifer Scott

A Five-year Goal Accomplished in Five Months: Massage Therapy Grad Opens Her Own Clinic

While working as a licensed insurance agent, Jennifer Scott always felt as though she was helping people. But she wanted to make a larger difference in people’s lives with her work.

“I was at the point in my life that I was ready to make a change,” she said.

Scott came to PTC and met with a counselor looking for a program that was a fit. She was directed to the Massage Therapy Program and met with Michelle Liggett, program coordinator.

“I liked that the massage therapy program would take only a year,” Scott said. “I got into the program and it just clicked. It worked for me.”

Scott graduated from the program in 2010 hoping to open her own business within five years. She returned to Piedmont Tech as an adjunct the following year while she was working to establish her client base. While teaching, she got the call that changed her life.

The owner of Palmetto Medical Massage called Liggett for a recommendation of a qualified massage therapist who would be willing to take over her lease because she was moving. Liggett immediately looked to Scott.

“I was scared to death, but I figured the Lord wouldn’t open the door if He didn’t think I could do it,” Scott said. “Instead of working toward my five-year goal, I did it in five months.”

The Massage Therapy program at Piedmont Tech prepared her to take on this challenge, Scott said. She began the program with several health issues of her own, but she has overcome many of those issues through the skills she learned.

“This program is so essential and so rewarding that it has changed my life and helped me grow,” she said. “It is an awesome feeling to come back from those things that slowed me down through massage and these are the things I want to give to the public.”

Scott says her focus with Palmetto Medical Massage is not to provide a recreational spa experience, but to work with clients who are looking to massage to help with recovery and improving the quality of their lives.

“We are geared more toward restorative care,” she said. “I want this to be a place where people can come and get a massage that is going to give them a new life. I want them to go out there and do things they couldn’t do before.” **CF**

More education = More opportunity

Today's good jobs require more than high school

While the debate about the state of the economy and the job market goes on, good jobs, the kind that provide a living wage and benefits, go begging. Even in today's economy, manufacturing jobs that can pay from \$30,000 to \$80,000 a year go unfilled because employers can't find workers with the right skills.

While not everyone wants—or needs—a full four years of college, a good foundation is more important than ever.

With a short period of training or a certificate program, high school graduates can expect to find jobs paying in the \$20,000 to \$30,000 range, and sometimes more depending on the field. Some of the jobs in these categories that are expected to have plenty of openings include a range of positions from customer service reps, to dental assistants, to pharmacy technicians and teacher assistants.

But even higher-paying jobs for workers with a high school diploma and some additional training are out there.

Some of these jobs include bookkeeping, carpentry, maintenance and repair work, massage therapy and welding—all of which pay in the \$30,000 to \$50,000 range and are expected to have plenty of openings according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

More in the Middle

Even more career options open up for people with more education.

Somewhere between a high school diploma and a bachelor's degree there is a middle range of college education that is too often overlooked. These are the so-called middle-skills jobs that pay off in challenging and interesting work that requires specialized skills, pays good wages and offers stable employment.

Nationally, about 45 percent of all job openings are middle-skill level, compared to one-third in highly skilled jobs and just 22 percent in occupations that require only a high school diploma.

In South Carolina, the percentage of middle-skills jobs is even higher: it's projected to be around 51 percent by 2018.

These jobs include many health care and technical occupations that can pay from \$30,000 to more than \$50,000, with most requiring an associate degree.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics lists more than 20 occupations with above-average growth through 2018 in this category. Many of these are in health care professions that include registered nursing, cardiovascular technology, radiation therapy and respiratory therapy.

Some are technical careers like heating, ventilation, and air conditioning installation and repair; and some are service positions like

morticians and funeral service directors.

According to a report by the National Skills Coalition, millions of students will take some college classes, but drop out before they earn any kind of degree. For these students, a certificate or associate degree in a middle-skills occupation are likely a better choice, offering more

employment opportunities and better wages.

Good jobs go begging

The industrial sector is an area where skilled workers are in especially high demand.

Jeannine Kunz, director of professional development

More satisfaction

Percent of workers who say that they are "very satisfied" with their job

- 40% no high school diploma
- 50% high school graduate
- 58% associate degree or some college
- 58% bachelor's degree or higher

More money

Median annual income based on education

- \$24,300 no high school diploma
- \$33,800 high school graduate
- \$42,000 associate degree
- \$55,700 bachelor's degree

From CollegeBoard "Education Pays 2010"



Three Paths to a Higher Degree of Success

More education opens additional doors. At Piedmont Technical College, you can build on your certificate to earn an associate degree, which often brings higher pay and professional advancement. And you'll be well-positioned to go on for a bachelor's degree if you need one to advance further in your career.

1 If you decide to earn a certificate to enter the job market quickly, you can add a few more credits later and round out your education with an associate degree. Most certificate programs at PTC offer this option.

2 Begin with an associate degree as your main credential. For example, a PTC associate degree will prepare you for health and

technical careers right away. Here are a few examples:

- Criminal Justice / Law Enforcement
- Nursing
- Radiography
- Engineering Technology

3 Start with an associate degree to get your foot in the door, then transfer for a bachelor's degree for advancement. Each associate

degree program at PTC includes at least one transfer pathway. Examples include:

- Agriculture
- Business
- Criminal Justice
- Engineering Technology Management
- Early Childhood Education
- Horticulture

Quick Training for Good Jobs

PTC offers a wide range of certificate programs to prepare students for entry-level jobs. Most of these certificates take a year or less to complete and can be combined with general education credits to become the foundation of an associate degree for students who decide to continue their education.

for the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, said that manufacturers aren't able to find the kinds of skilled workers they need, especially welders, machine operators, sheet metal fabricators and maintenance technicians.

"It's estimated that the U.S. will be three million skilled workers short in the next couple years," she added. "And not enough people have the right education or skills to fill those jobs."

PTC instructor Grayson Jefferies, who teaches in the Automotive Technology department, can vouch for that. "There's definitely work out there for people with the right training. We get calls from employers every week looking to recruit students in our program," he said.

"Today's automotive technicians are expected to use electronic equipment all the time, and to be comfortable using specific equations in certain situations. They also need a basic grasp of electrical, mechanical, physical and chemical concepts," said Jefferies.

"Local dealers, independent shops, large auto service chains are all looking for either entry-level licensed technicians or interns. These are jobs that typically pay from \$12 to \$25 per hour. There is also a growing market for more highly trained technicians at automotive manufacturers' testing facilities, with good pay and benefits," he added.

Agriculture	Credits	Education	Credits
Diversified Agriculture.....	35	Early Childhood Development.....	30
Horticulture Landscape Management.....	26	Infant-Toddler Care	21
Business		Health Care	
Accounting.....	33	Massage Therapy	36
Entrepreneurship.....	24	Patient Care Technician.....	44
Funeral Services Education	35	Phlebotomy Technician.....	20
Office Technician	30	Industrial Technology	
Computer Technology		Automotive Fundamentals	30
Advanced Web Development	27	Carpentry	22
Computer Software Specialist.....	30	Computerized Numerical Control	27
PC Technician	36	Construction Management.....	22
Commercial Art & Design		Electrical Maintenance Technician	28
Advertising Design	36	Gunsmithing	25
Desktop Publishing.....	36	Heating Fundamentals.....	25
Digital Rendering	36	Journeyman Welding.....	19
& Gaming Development		Machine Tool Operator	26
Illustration	36	Mechatronics Technology	38
Photography	36	Refrigeration Applications.....	32
Professional Clay.....	33		





Higher Education Starts Here

Transfer advantages for PTC graduates

What if you could get the degree you want from the four-year college you've always had your heart set on, and pay less than half the cost for your first two years?

Sound too good to be true? It's not. Every year, more and more students in South Carolina are taking advantage of transfer options and cost savings offered at technical colleges.

Closer to home, Piedmont Technical College offers more than 60 courses designed to transfer seamlessly to any public college or university in the state, and our bridge programs with four-year universities mean that you can start with us and transfer your coursework easily.

Get a Strong Start

As a new student at bigger colleges, you'll often spend your first few semesters in a lecture hall—sometimes with more than 100 other students. At Piedmont Technical College, you'll get personal attention from experienced instructors who are focused on helping you succeed—right from the start.

PTC faculty are focused primarily on teaching, so they have fewer competing interests – like research projects, project funding or getting work published – that would distract from teaching introductory college courses.

Class sizes for general education and major preparation courses are usually smaller than those at four-year institutions. Smaller class sizes allow for better access to the professor and also more individualized

attention, which again translates into better learning and potential student success.

Save Money

There's no getting around it. A four-year degree can be expensive.

Starting at PTC can provide substantial savings. For starters, tuition and fees are less than half what you'd pay at four-year institutions. By starting and staying at PTC through completion of an associate degree, you may even save enough to cover the tuition costs of your junior year at another college or university.

And when you consider that the average financial aid package at PTC is more than enough to fully cover the cost of tuition, you're looking at serious savings.

Plus, PTC campuses are conveniently local, so you'll save on commuting costs and dorm expenses by living at home.

Best of all, when you graduate from your destination school, you'll have the same degree as someone who started there as a freshman—without the debt.

Cover the Basics

Bachelor's degree programs require that students fulfill a set of general education courses, and technical colleges are good places to earn these credits. PTC students can take 60 courses that are guaranteed to transfer to all four-year public institutions and many private institutions.

"We consistently review program curricula and work very closely with public and private colleges

and universities, in- and out-of state, to make sure our students are well prepared and their courses are transferable,” said Evelyn Beck, Bridge Program and Transfer Coordinator at Piedmont Technical College.

To assist even further, students can visit the South Carolina Transfer and Articulation Center at setrac.org to see which courses transfer to which colleges, and to map out their transfer plan. Online listings indicate whether a course is transferable and, if so, the four-year institution’s equivalent course number.

Assistance with Transferring

Piedmont Technical College offers dedicated assistance to help students with the transfer process. Students are provided with online transfer resources and information on transfer agreements, application deadlines, scholarships and more. Many four-year institutions hire personnel specifically to assist and recruit students from two-year colleges.

Many of these representatives visit PTC to speak with students about transferring to their college or university. Additionally, PTC hosts a College Transfer Fair, an annual event designed for high school and

technical college students to meet with representatives from schools and ask questions about academic programs, requirements for admission, and campus life.

Boost Your Grade Point Average

By starting at PTC, you may even improve your chances of getting into a college that might have been out of your reach straight out of high school.

Students applying to college are judged on their high school GPA, class rank and performance on the ACT or SAT. But as a transfer student, most four-year institutions will only look at your Piedmont Tech GPA for admissions

purposes—and some may only look to see if you’ve earned an associate degree.

Unlike most four-year institutions, PTC has an open-door admissions policy which allows all students to be accepted regardless of past academic performance. Students who improve their academic record show four-year institutions they’re serious about their education.

Transferring from a technical college is a smart way to start college, save money and achieve your academic and career goals.

Start Here. Go Anywhere.

PTC alumni have been successfully moving on to pursue bachelor’s degrees since the College launched its transfer curriculum more than twenty years ago. Here are three recent graduates who got a solid start at PTC.



On the Road to a Graduate Degree

Madison Crisp, a 2011 Clemson graduate, completed two years at Piedmont Tech before transferring.

Madison developed a transfer plan early in her time at Piedmont Technical College based on the four-year college she wanted to attend and the major she wanted to pursue. And as a result, when she moved on to Clemson University, all of her coursework transferred.

“When I moved on after two years at PTC, all my classes transferred. I didn’t even realize how much Piedmont Tech had prepared me until I got to Clemson. I established a strong foundation here, so when I moved on, I was confident in myself, and I knew that I could do it,” she said.

Madison says that she developed a lot of her work ethic and her drive to succeed in school at Piedmont Tech. “Piedmont Tech just really solidified my goals for me,” she said.

Now Madison is pursuing a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at the University of South Carolina. “I got into Physical Therapy School on my first try, and that doesn’t happen to a lot of people—I know that,” she said.

“[PTC] is so cost-effective,” she says. “I went to Clemson having completed two whole years of my bachelor’s degree, and it didn’t cost me a single dime at PTC. I’d recommend it to anyone.”



Ahead of the Game

Kristen Culbreath graduated from Piedmont Tech’s Commercial Art program in Summer 2011, and she’s now headed in to the junior year of her bachelor’s degree at the Savannah College of Art & Design, one of the best art schools in the country.

Thanks to the skills she learned at PTC, she was selected to receive \$15,000 in academic and artistic scholarships at SCAD, which are covering most of her tuition.

Kristen said that going to SCAD after Piedmont Technical College is a smooth transition. “You just have to make sure you’re focused,” she said. “Students at SCAD are top-notch, but I definitely feel like I was prepared.”

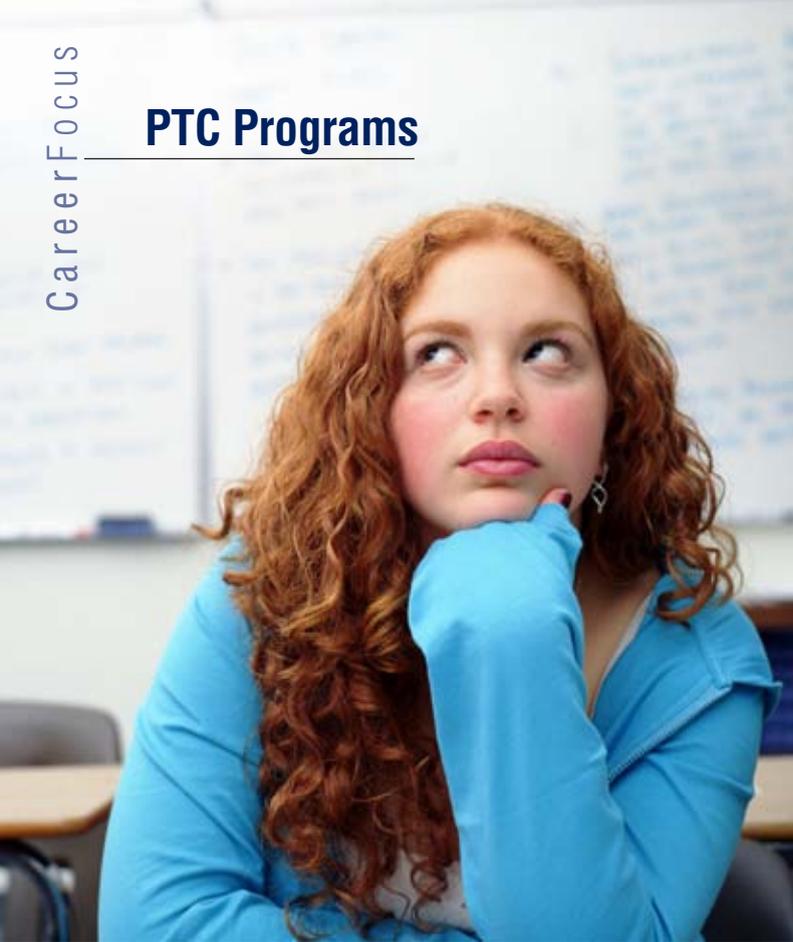
Plus, she’s ahead of the game at SCAD.

If fact, she said that the project-based, hands on approach at PTC put her ahead of the curve in certain areas. “The work at PTC is far above what many of the people in the sophomore programs at SCAD are doing right now.”

Kristen was actually planning just to go to another school after transferring, but thanks to the encouragement of her instructors at PTC, she discovered a college that was a better fit for her goals. “I was able to figure out what I wanted to do and get my portfolio together for the transfer,” she said.

“You get a lot of personal attention at Piedmont Tech. People here recognize your talent and push you where you need to go.”

PTC Programs



Where do you want to go?

For many people, deciding on a career can feel like taking a journey without either a map or a destination. Eventually, with some advice and direction, a little exploration and maybe a dead end or two, you begin to get a sense of where you'd like to go and how to get there. Whether you're just starting out or picking up a new career in mid-life, Piedmont Tech offers courses and services to help you find your path and get to your goal.

Good advice and good resources are the best road maps. PTC's Counseling, Career Planning and Employment services can help you explore your options and get started on a plan of action.

Academic advisors too, can help you choose the right classes for your goal.

PTC's 80+ certificate, diploma and degree programs are some of the best vehicles around for taking you to your career destinations. In a year or less a certificate can get you into a job, in two years an associate degree can move you a little farther along your career path, and transferring to a four-year college will take you even farther.

Map out your options by taking a look at the PTC A-Z listing below. And when you're ready to start planning your career, visit www.ptc.edu to find out how to enroll in classes. Call the Admissions Office at (855) 682-7094 for answers to your questions. **CF**



UNIVERSITY TRANSFER PROGRAMS

If you're headed toward a bachelor's degree, we can help you get there. Piedmont Tech offers more than 80 courses that transfer to any public university or college in South Carolina, and hundreds of PTC students transfer credits earned at Piedmont Tech to universities throughout the state each year.

Associate in Arts

The Associate in Arts program prepares students for four-year baccalaureate majors in fields such as business, accounting, management, English, journalism, social work, education, music, psychology, history, pre-law, humanities, fine arts and social sciences.

Associate in Science

The Associate in Science degree stresses mathematics, as well as natural and physical sciences, and prepares students for four-year baccalaureate majors in those fields, plus engineering, pre-med, veterinary medicine, chiropractic and education.

Transfer Partnerships & Career Path Transfers

PTC has established specific transfer agreements with more than 15 colleges and universities, as well as specific career path transfers in areas such as business, criminal justice, engineering technology, education and many more. Talk to your advisor to decide which path is right for you.

For more information, visit www.ptc.edu/transfer



AGRICULTURE

We all know that agriculture is an important part of South Carolina's heritage. But did you know that agriculture-based businesses play a critical and expanding role in the growth of the state's economy? In fact, agribusiness is one of the largest economic clusters in the state and a critically important part of the knowledge based economy.

Diversified Agriculture

Provides students with advanced technical knowledge in sustainable agriculture, field crop production, pest management, soil and water management, hydraulics and pneumatics, agriculture economics and marketing related to the agricultural industry.

A.A.S., Major in Diversified Agriculture

Basic Diversified Agriculture Certificate

Horticulture Technology

Students are prepared for supervisory, middle management and technical positions in horticulture, including landscape design, implementation and maintenance.

A.A.S., Major in Horticulture Technology

Horticulture Landscape Management Certificate

Agriculture Education Transfer Option to Clemson

Horticulture and/or Turfgrass Transfer Option to Clemson

South Carolina Median Salaries

- Farmer - \$32,300
- Landscaping Supervisor - \$39,800
- Nursery Operator - \$43,230



BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

If you're a good communicator who enjoys solving problems, a career in business might be right for you. Computers have also become an indispensable part of everyday life. Majoring in Computer Technology at Piedmont Tech will give you the knowledge and skills you'll need to get started in Information Technology and computer science.

Administrative Office Technology

Actual work experience and instruction in keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheet applications, transcription, office procedures, communication, accounting and more give graduates the ability to work independently and handle the details of office administration.

A.A.S., Major in Administrative Office Technology

Microcomputer Software Specialist Certificate

Office Technician Certificate

Business

Probably no other occupational area encompasses a more diverse range of activities than the business field.

A.A.S., Major in Business

Accounting Certificate

Entrepreneurship Certificate

South Carolina Median Salaries*

- Accounting - \$31,600
- Administrative Office Technology - \$28,600
- Office Manager - \$41,200
- Network Administrator - \$61,700
- Funeral Director - \$54,600



Computer Technology

Students study computer maintenance, local and wide area networks and popular programming languages. Graduates are truly prepared to take their place in the Information Age.

A.A.S., Major in Computer Technology

Advanced Web Development Certificate

PC Technician Certificate

Commercial Art

If you have an artistic streak and you enjoy solving problems by thinking creatively and interacting with computers, you should consider a major in Commercial Art.

Advertising Design Certificate

Desktop Publishing Certificate

Digital Rendering and Gaming Development Certificate

Illustration Certificate

Photography Certificate

Funeral Service

This program provides the educational foundation needed to seek South Carolina licensure both as an embalmer and as a funeral director.

A.A.S., Major in Funeral Service

Funeral Service Education Certificate

Professional Pottery

Located in historic Edgefield County, the Professional Clay program is designed to offer a comprehensive education in the craft of pottery, and in the discipline of making a living doing what you love.

Advanced Professional Clay Certificate

Professional Clay Certificate

If you're fascinated by technology and enjoy a hands-on approach to problem solving, Engineering Technology may be the right career path for you.

Electronic Engineering Technology

The graduate is skilled in the operation, troubleshooting, calibration and repair of electronic instruments and systems found in process control, communications, computers, manufacturing, programmable logic controllers and microprocessors.

A.A.S., Major in Electronic Engineering Technology

Engineering Graphics Technology

All phases of manufacturing or construction require the conversion of new ideas and design concepts into the basic line language of graphics.

A.A.S., Major in Engineering Graphics Technology

General Engineering Technology

Students will learn how computers and robotics are used in industry to operate automated manufacturing systems. They will also learn to program computers, robots, computerized numerical control (CNC) machines, programmable logic controllers and automated equipment.

A.A.S., Major in General Engineering Technology

Mechanical Engineering Technology

The Mechanical Engineering Technology curriculum equips the graduate for: performing a key role in the mechanical design process; installing, troubleshooting and repairing mechanical and electro-mechanical equipment; programming CNC machine tools, computers, programmable controllers and robots; and performing general maintenance functions.

A.A.S., Major in Mechanical Engineering Technology

Transfer Options

Electrical Engineering Transfer Option

Mechanical Engineering Transfer Option

South Carolina Median Salaries

Electrical and Electronics

Drafter - \$49,300

Electronic Engineering

Technician - \$52,600

Mechanical Engineering

Technician - \$44,400

Students enrolled in any of the Industrial Technology curricula will gain practical experience and technical knowledge. Well-equipped labs, broad-based programs and hands-on opportunities make the difference in their futures.

Automotive Technology

Students are trained to perform quality maintenance, diagnosis and repair of complex modern vehicles.

A.A.S., Major in Automotive Technology

Automotive Fundamentals Certificate

Building Construction Technology

Students gain practical training in estimating building costs, carpentry, cabinet making, residential wiring, blueprint reading, brick masonry, construction, building codes and safety.

A.A.S., Major in Building Construction Technology

Carpentry Certificate

Construction Management Certificate

Gunsmithing

Introduction to Gunsmithing Certificate

Advanced Gunsmithing Certificate

**Heating, Ventilation and
Air Conditioning Technology**

Students in this program are educated in the installation, maintenance and repair of air conditioning, refrigeration and heating systems.

**A.A.S., Major in Heating, Ventilation & Air
Conditioning Technology**

Heating Fundamentals Certificate

Refrigeration Applications Certificate

Industrial Electronics Technology

Instruction covers DC and AC voltages; basic hydraulics; machine shop practice; motor control; and the generation, distribution and utilization of electrical power.

A.A.S., Major in Industrial Electronics Technology

Electronic Maintenance Technician Certificate

Machine Tool Technology

Students in this program get training and practical experience in machining operations used in the manufacturing industry. The graduate is skilled in the use of precision equipment and can make intricate parts.

A.A.S., Major in Machine Tool Technology

D.A.S., Major in Machine Tool

Computerized Numerical Control Certificate

Machine Tool Operator Certificate

Mechatronics Technology

Combining electronic, mechanical, robotics and information system technologies, this program provides the graduate with the skill set needed for today's automated manufacturing facilities.

A.A.S., Major in Mechatronics Technology

Mechatronics Technology I Certificate

Welding

Students learn to join metal by use of gas-fueled torches and electric arc processes.

D.A.S., Major in Welding

Journeyman Welding Certificate

South Carolina Median Salaries

Automotive Technician - \$32,700

Carpenter - \$33,000

HVAC Technician - \$35,900

Electronics Technician - \$47,900

CNC Machine Tool Operator - \$34,100

Mechatronics Technician - \$59,300

Welder - \$35,100



With the complexity and diversity of today's health care system, varieties of health care professionals are needed. To function effectively by providing safe, knowledgeable patient care, the health care professional needs a thorough understanding of basic sciences and individual curriculum theory.

Cardiovascular Technology

The cardiovascular technologist performs diagnostic tests which are used in the diagnosis, treatment, and serial follow-up of patients with cardiovascular disease.

A.A.S., Major in Cardiovascular Technology

Massage Therapy

Massage Therapy is one of the fastest growing professions in the health care field. There is an ever increasing acceptance of massage as a holistic approach to health care and health maintenance.

Massage Therapy Certificate

Medical Assisting

The Medical Assisting program prepares a multi-skilled graduate to function in clinical and administrative areas of the physician's office and ambulatory care centers.

D.A.S., Major in Medical Assisting

Nursing

The Nursing program will assist students in developing the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to practice. Upon successful completion of the NCLEX licensure exam by the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina, graduates can seek employment as licensed nurses.

A.A.S., Major in Nursing

D.A.S., Major in Practical Nursing

LPN to ADN Nursing Program

Patient Care Technician

Because health care is changing at an unprecedented pace, new or varied approaches to patient care are emerging. One such approach is the use of multi-skilled individuals known as patient care technicians who are a part of the health care team.

Patient Care Technician Certificate

Pharmacy Technology

Graduates of the pharmacy technology diploma are health care professionals who assist the pharmacist in a hospital or clinical setting to provide quality health care related to medication administration in an institutional setting

D.A.S., Major in Pharmacy Technology

Phlebotomy Technician

This certificate program provides students with the basic skills necessary for the collection of laboratory blood specimens.

Phlebotomy Technician Certificate

Radiologic Technology

The Radiologic Technology curriculum is designed to assist students in acquiring the general and technical competencies necessary to enter the radiography field.

A.A.S., Major in Radiologic Technology

Respiratory Care

The respiratory care practitioner is trained to assist the medical staff with the treatment, management and care of patients with cardiopulmonary abnormalities or deficiencies.

A.A.S., Major in Respiratory Care

Surgical Technology

Surgical technologists are members of the operating team who work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, RN's and other personnel to deliver patient care before, during and after surgery.

D.A.S., Major in Surgical Technology

Veterinary Technology

The veterinary technician works under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The specialized training received will allow the graduate to seek employment in such areas as clinical medicine, laboratory animal medicine, emergency medicine, pharmaceutical sales, food inspection and government agencies.

A.A.S., Major in Veterinary Technology

South Carolina Median Salaries

- Cardiovascular Technologist - \$46,300
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) - \$37,600
- Massage Therapist - \$27,800
- Pharmacy Technician - \$26,200
- Radiologic Technologist - \$48,700
- Respiratory Therapist - \$51,200
- Registered Nurse (RN) - \$57,500
- Veterinary Technologist - \$26,800

Health Science Transfer

Biotechnology Certificate

Health Science Transfer Certificate

Students interested in a career in Public Service may choose majors in Criminal Justice, Human Services or Early Care and Education.

South Carolina Median Salaries

- Police Officer - \$36,800
- Preschool or Daycare Director - \$34,500
- Preschool Teacher - \$22,000
- Human Services Assistant - \$26,800

Criminal Justice

This program is designed to prepare professionally-educated and competent criminal justice practitioners for careers within the criminal justice system.

A.A.S., Major in Criminal Justice

Early Care and Education

The Early Care and Education program offers a combination of classroom instruction and supervised, hands-on experience that prepares students for direct entry into the field of Early Care and Education.

A.A.S., Major in Early Care and Education

A.A.S., Major in Early Care and Education, Infant/Toddler Care Concentration

Early Childhood Development Certificate

Infant-Toddler Certificate

Human Services

The program prepares students to work in diverse settings such as group homes; correctional, mental retardation and mental health settings; family, child and youth service agencies; and programs concerned with alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence and aging.

A.A.S., Major in Human Services

The Occupational Technology degree is designed to provide students with an opportunity to upgrade diploma or certificate programs. The program is designed to be substantially individualized to meet the needs of employees who have or seek to have broad technical responsibilities.

General Technology

The major in General Technology requires that a student have completed or be in the last term of a diploma or certificate program of 28 hours. Students in the following programs, with general education courses and a secondary specialty, may earn an Associate in Applied Science with a major in General Technology: Advertising Design, Desktop Publishing, Horticulture Landscape Management, Illustration, Machine Tool, Mechatronics Technology I, Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Technology, Photography, Surgical Technology and Welding.

*Salary data is based on information from the South Carolina Employment Security Commission.
A.A.S. = Associate in Applied Science D.A.S. = Diploma in Applied Science

Piedmont Technical College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone number (404) 679-4901) to award the associate degree and holds membership in the American Association of Community Colleges and in the American Technical Education Association. For a full list of accreditations, visit <http://www.ptc.edu/about-ptc/accreditation>.

Center for Advanced Manufacturing Provides New Opportunities in Laurens County

The new Center for Advanced Manufacturing, an extension of the Laurens County Higher Education Center, will begin operation this May. In addition to providing corporate training and industry support, the new center will also provide Piedmont Technical College with an opportunity to better serve the public's educational needs.

Plans for the 24,300 square foot facility were announced in late August 2011, and the project has moved forward quickly since with completion slated for late spring. The rapid progress

is due in part to collaboration and overwhelming support from the county, ZF Group, and from business and industrial communities.

Contract Training & Industry Support Services

The Advanced Manufacturing facility was initially planned to provide readySC, a division of the South Carolina Technical College System, with a dedicated space to meet ZF Group's training needs in collaboration with PTC industrial faculty, but industry

leaders throughout the county see the Center's potential to benefit their operations. Contract corporate training for these companies will also take place in the new facility.

Curriculum Programs

The new Center will house several full industrial programs like Mechatronics, Machine Tool Technology, and Welding entirely in Laurens County, complete with hands-on lab time for students—eliminating the need to drive to Greenwood for the hands-on portion of these curricula. Additional curriculum programs have been designed by PTC in collaboration with local industry to prepare students to work in today's high-tech manufacturing field.

Continuing Education Programs

Continuing Education will begin offering professional development and other non-

credit courses to the public and to Laurens County business immediately after the first phase of construction is complete. Additional classroom space and training equipment will allow for more manufacturing-related Continuing Education offerings.

Basic Skills & Manufacturing Assembly Technician Classes

Basic Skills and Manufacturing Assembly Technician courses will also be among the first offerings at the new Center. These courses provide training for the unemployed through the Workforce Investment Act program. Topics include basic computer skills, resume and cover letter writing, interview skills, and basic manufacturing job skills.

To inquire about any of the programs listed above, contact Continuing Education at (864) 941-8400.



NEWS
PTC

Two New Transfer Paths for PTC Students

Piedmont Technical College has recently signed new transfer agreements with the Citadel and USC Aiken which formalize a seamless transfer path for students who wish to start at PTC and then transfer to a senior institution to complete a bachelor's degree.

The Citadel agreement will give students who earn an Associate in Arts or an Associate in Applied Science with a major in Criminal Justice or Business the opportunity to enroll at The Citadel's Evening Undergraduate Studies and pursue a bachelor's degree in Business Administration or Criminal Justice.

The USC Aiken agreements create a full bridge program and facilitate a transfer between the College's Early Care and Education program and USC Aiken's Early Childhood Education bachelor's degree.

PTC currently offers six full bridge programs and more than 20 university transfer partnerships with colleges and universities all over the region.

What are your kids doing this summer?

If you're looking for something different, fun and exciting for your kids to do this summer, you'll find a camp that fits the bill at Piedmont Technical College.

From Robotics and Automotive Technology to Photography and Cheerleading, PTC is offering something for every interest this year. Which camp is right for you?

Piedmont Technical College will offer various summer camps for students throughout the months of June and July. These camps have been developed to be fun and exciting as well as educational.

For Girls Only

Ages 6-8
Tiny Princess Camp,
June 4-7, 2012

Ages 7-9
"Rah Rah" Cheer Camp,
June 11-14, 2012

Rising 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Graders
G.A.T.E. (Girls Achieving in Technology & Engineering) Camp,
June 11-14, 2012

Ages 11-13
Glamour Girl Summer Camp,
July 9-13, 2012

For Boys Only

Ages 6-8
Gladiator (All Sports) Camp,
June 4-7, 2012

For Boys and Girls

Ages 9-14
DIGI-TECH Camp- Sponsored by FujiFilm, June 25-29, 2012

Ages 10-12
Green Science Camp,
July 9-12, 2012

Ages 11-13
Creativity Camp,
July 16-20, 2012

Junior Dessert Designer,
June 25-29, 2012

Leatherworking Camp for Kids and Teens, July 24-26, 2012

Optics Experimental Camp,
June 18-21, 2012

ROBO Camp, July 16-20, 2012

Rising 7th, 8th, and 9th Graders
Automotive Technology Camp,
June 18-22, 2012

For additional information to register a student for any of the camps listed above, please contact Continuing Education at (864) 941-8400.



Get Started Today.

FALL CLASSES
start **AUGUST 23rd.**

In two years or less, Piedmont Technical College can train you for a career in one of 80 plus fields that pay — for a lot less than you'd pay at other colleges. Take classes at a campus close to home, or online from anywhere there's an Internet connection.

Where are you headed?
Visit us today at Piedmont Tech and let's talk about how you can get there.

Abbeville County Campus
Highway 28 Bypass
Abbeville, South Carolina
(864) 446-8324

Edgefield County Campus
506 Main Street
Edgefield, South Carolina
(803) 637-5388

Greenwood Campus
620 N. Emerald Road
Greenwood, South Carolina
(864) 941-8324
(800) 868-5528

Laurens County Campus
663 Medical Ridge Road
Clinton, South Carolina
(864) 938-1505

McCormick County Campus
1008 Kelly Street
McCormick, South Carolina
(864) 852-3191

Saluda County Campus
701 Batesburg Hwy.
Saluda, South Carolina
(864) 445-3144

Newberry County Campus
540 Wilson Road
Newberry, South Carolina
(803) 276-9000



Your goals. Our mission.

For more information,
visit www.ptc.edu
or call (855) 682-7094.