



WIND TURBINE TECHNICIAN (632)

Certificate

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

The Highland Community College Wind Turbine Technician certificate program prepares individuals to work in the emerging wind power energy industry. Students will complete an industry-derived curriculum as they learn about the electrical power generation industry, safety at the worksite, mechanical devices, as well as hydraulic and electrical systems. Courses take place in traditional classrooms, and at various lab settings on campus. Graduates enter the workforce needing further on the job training to become a wind turbine technician. They will, however, possess the basic skills needed to complete more advanced training and coursework.

NATURE OF WORK AND EMPLOYMENT

Wind turbine technicians may work in a variety of situations. Some assist in the assembly of individual wind generators or the construction of wind farms. Wind turbine technicians are also responsible for troubleshooting mechanical, hydraulic and electrical problems and making repairs to generation equipment. Technicians may also be responsible for preventive maintenance and periodic inspections of wind turbine equipment and facilities. Most work takes place in the field and technicians must be prepared to work inside and outside, on the ground and around elevated machinery, and at times with heavy equipment. Some technicians may also work in manufacturing facilities that fabricate wind turbine equipment. Employment opportunities exist locally and in many regions of the state and country.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

To be accepted into the wind turbine technician certificate program, students must meet all math and writing entrance requirements. Readiness may be demonstrated by scores on placement tests or by evidence of completion of prerequisite courses on an official transcript. Many courses have prerequisites that must be met with a grade of "C" or better. Many courses must be taken in sequence. Certain courses may be offered one term per year. Individuals interested in the wind turbine technician certificate program should meet with a student advisor to become familiar with the program requirements and develop a personal plan before beginning studies.

An overall grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale must be maintained throughout the program. All courses with a WTEC prefix must be completed with a "B" or better to take the following WTEC course in the sequence.

Because of the physical nature of the work, students must be able to achieve and maintain a level of physical fitness appropriate to meet the demands of the career. Each student should be able to climb a 240 foot ladder and regularly carry 60 pounds.

This program is recommended for students who have a specific career goal in mind and do not plan to transfer to a four-year program at a college or university.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Call Highland at 815-235-6121 for the following program contacts:

Mr. Scott Anderson, Dean of Business & Technology
 Mr. Steve Gellings, Industrial Technology Faculty
 Mr. David Vrtol, Wind Technician Specialist, Part Time Faculty
 Mr. Dana Zimmerman, Coordinator of Career Services/
 Student Advisor

FIRST SEMESTER 10 Sem. Hours

* ELET	179	Electronic Principles	3
* INFT	180	Intro to Information Systems	3
* MATH	111	Technical Math	3
WTEC	101	Intro to Wind Energy	1

SECOND SEMESTER 12 Sem. Hours

* BUSN	141	Business Communications (or COMM 101 or ENGL 121)	3
* MTEC	263	General Hydraulics	3
* WTEC	110	Wind Mechanical Systems	3
* WTEC	120	Wind Systems Technician I	3

THIRD SEMESTER 11 Sem. Hours

* MTEC	220	Motors & Controls	3
* WTEC	220	Wind Systems Technician II	5
* WTEC	230	Wiring & Schematics	3

Total Hours = 33

* Course has a prerequisite. See course descriptions.