WIND TURBINE TECHNICIAN (631)

Associate of Applied Science

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

The Highland Community College Wind Turbine Technician 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, various lab settings on campus and in local work environments in cooperation with local wind industry business partners. Graduates enter the workforce with the skills necessary to be employed and succeed in entry-level technical positions and with additional training and experience may advance to supervisory or advanced technical positions.

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 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 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

14/15 Sem. Hours

*	ELET	179	Electronic Principles	3
*	MATH	111	Technical Math	3
*	INFT	180	Intro to Information Systems	3
*	NSCI	232	Meteorology	
		-or-		
	NSCI	132	Physical Geography	
		-or-		
*	PHYS	141	Physics	3/4
	PHYD	121	Physical Fitness	1
	WTEC	101	Intro to Wind Energy	1

SECOND SEMESTER

15 Sem. Hours

*	BUSN	141	Management Communications (or COMM 101 or ENGL 121)	3
*	MTEC	263	General Hydraulics	3
	SPCH	191	Speech	3
*	WTEC	110	Wind Mechanical Systems	3
*	WTEC	120	Wind Systems Technician I	3

THIRD SEMESTER

17/18 Sem. Hours

*	ELET	182	Devices & Circuits I	3
*	MTEC	220	Motors & Controls	3
*	WTEC	220	Wind Systems Technician II	5
*	WTEC	230	Wiring & Schematics	3
	Gen Ed Elective (a foreign language is recommended)			3/4

FOURTH SEMESTER

17 Sem. Hours

*	ELET	295	Programmable Logic Controllers	4
	OCED	250	Career Seminar	1
*	OCED	290	Workplace Experience (internship)	4
*	WTEC	240	Wind Systems Technician III	5
	Gen Ed. Electives			3

Total Hours = 63/65

* Course has a prerequisite. See course descriptions.