Aircraft Maintenance Technology at Trident Technical College

Aircraft maintenance technicians are highly trained professionals who help design, build and maintain all aircraft, from the smallest Cessna to the largest commercial jets, including helicopters, gliders, experimental aircraft, light sport aircraft and balloons. Examples of jobs in the Charleston area include maintaining large jets at Charleston International Airport, civilian jobs supporting military aircraft and repair stations.

The Aircraft Maintenance Technology program at Trident Technical College prepares students to sit for the certification exam of the Federal Aviation Administration as airframe and/or powerplant technicians. Students also are prepared for employment repairing aircraft, engines, and related systems with airlines, government agencies, aircraft manufacturers and aircraft service companies. This program is licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Career and Employment

In general, job opportunities will be best for mechanics who hold an A&P certificate and have knowledge about the most cutting-edge technologies and composite materials. Familiarity with computers and digital systems will help provide the best opportunities. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program)

In May 2013, the median annual wage for aircraft mechanics and service technicians was $55,980. Locally, the range was $33,000 to $86,000 annually. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics)

Programs of Study

Associate Degree (six semesters):
- Aircraft Maintenance Technology

Certificates:
- Aircraft Maintenance Airframe (two and a half semesters)
- Aircraft Maintenance General (one semester)
- Aircraft Maintenance Powerplant (two and a half semesters)
Career opportunities:  
Many Fortune 500 companies have expanded their global operations in the southeastern United States. The burgeoning aviation cluster in the southeast United States will provide many career opportunities for the well-trained technician. Trident Technical College graduates are well prepared to meet the needs of these employers.

Curriculum and Skills Covered  
- Aircraft drawings  
- Materials and corrosion control  
- Fluid lines and fittings  
- Wood structures, coverings and finishes  
- Hydraulic and pneumatic systems  
- Assembly and rigging  
- Utility and warning systems  
- Landing gear systems  
- Powerplant fuel systems  
- Aircraft welding  
- Airframe inspection

Tools and Equipment Taught  
- Variety of piston and jet aircraft  
- Aircraft system trainers  
- Basic hand tools  
- Measuring devices  
- Air tools  
- Welding equipment  
- Non-destructive testing equipment  
- Hot bonders

Admission Requirements  
- Be high school graduate or possess GED  
- Meet TTC Placement Test, SAT or ACT requirements

For more information:  
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Trident Technical College does not discriminate in admission or employment on the basis of race, gender, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or pregnancy.

Produced by Trident Technical College. 1/15