

Polk State College Implements Degree in Engineering Technology

In April 2009, Polk State College (PSC) approved a new Associate of Science (AS) degree in Engineering Technology with a specialization in Advanced Manufacturing. This degree is closely aligned with both the national Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) Certified Production Technician (CPT) industry certification and the non-credit training being offered by PSC's Corporate College Advanced Manufacturing Institute, using either the Banner Manufacturing Fundamentals for new career candidates or the Banner Manufacturing Essentials for incumbents with some level of experience. In fact, students who complete the MSSC CPT training and earn their certification also earn 15 credit hours toward the new 60 credit-hour AS degree. Additionally, students in PSC's Corporate College Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeship Program, either the Electro-Automation or Mechanical programs, earn an additional 16 credits toward the AS degree.

The AS degree in Engineering Technology is designed to meet Polk County's need for a highly skilled, well-trained, and technically competent workforce in manufacturing to meet the challenges of ever changing and increasingly complex manufacturing processes. The AS in Engineering Technology degree can serve as either a terminal degree or the first step of a 2 + 2 program leading to a bachelor's degree, either in a technical area or in management.

The degree program is designed to prepare students with the knowledge and skills needed for Florida's diverse manufacturing sectors by providing the fundamentals of production processes, the maintenance of those processes, quality assurance, and safety. Then the students build upon those fundamentals with more in depth study of automation and instrumentation (including PLC basics), metrology, process improvements (including total predictive maintenance, lubrication technology, vibration, and alignment), as well as quality work practices utilizing Lean and Six Sigma principles. In addition to these technical skills, students will learn the management competencies needed to advance the efficient and effective performance within our advanced manufacturing entities.

Dr. Eric Roe, Director of the Banner Center for Manufacturing and Applied Technology at PSC, will also serve as the Program Coordinator for the AS in Engineering Technology. For more information, please contact Dr. Roe at eroe@polk.edu.