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What is a Technical Training Program?

Specialized technical training programs in Delaware are designed to equip students with the specific skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in in-demand trades or technical fields. These programs are typically offered through a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on, on-the-job training (OJT), preparing participants for immediate entry into the workforce or to advance in their current careers. Visit [CareerOneStop](#) to explore in-demand occupations. Here's a breakdown of what these programs offer and what you can expect:

- **Where are they offered?** These programs are typically available through:
 - **Local Adult Education Centers:** Various centers around Delaware offer specialized training tailored to local job market needs.
 - **Community Colleges:** Provide programs focused on specific trades or career skills.
 - **Training Program Providers:** Includes private organizations, non-profits, or government-funded workforce development programs.
- **What do you learn?**
 - Classroom Instruction: Concentrates on the practical skills required for the trade or career, with minimal emphasis on general education. The goal is to equip you with the knowledge needed for your chosen field.
 - On-the-Job Training (OJT): is an approved and structured form of technical training that is provided by an employer to an employee to perform particular tasks and skills necessary for a trade or field. Work experience is not the same as on-the-job training.
 - *OJT can be competitive and selective, which means that not every trainee will have the same access to these opportunities.*
- **How long are the programs?** The duration of these programs can vary, typically falling into one of the following categories:
 1. **Short-Term or "Rapid" Training Programs:** Typically 12 weeks to under a year, these are ideal for quickly gaining skills for entry-level positions (e.g., Certified Nursing Assistant programs).
 2. **Long-Term Training Programs:** Over a year, offering more comprehensive training in specific trades (e.g., Dental Assisting programs).
- **What happens after I complete the program?** Upon completion, most students earn:
 - **Certificates, Credentials, or Licensure:** These qualifications demonstrate proficiency in the trade and readiness for employment. These are industry-recognized qualifications that validate your skills and readiness to work in the field.
 - **College Credit:** Some programs may allow the technical training to count toward college credit, which can be beneficial for further education.

How to Choose the Right Program:

- **Rapid Entry into Workforce:** Opt for **short-term “rapid” training programs** if you aim to gain skills quickly for entry-level positions.
- **In-Depth Skill Development:** Choose a **long-term training program** if you seek more comprehensive training and potential apprenticeship opportunities in the future. [Learn more about apprenticeships here.](#)
 - Apprenticeships may require background knowledge, experience, and skills. Click [here](#) to learn more, and please see apprenticeship requirements per program.
- If you are interested in earning an associate degree from a college in a specific in-demand career: **Consider a DTCC Associates Degree Program**, learn more [here](#)

Check out our Work Based Learning Glossary [{insert new WBL One-pager}](#)

DELAWARE’S TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTERS

Delaware Adult Education Centers (AECs)

There are four Adult Education Centers (AECs) across Delaware—one in each county, with two in New Castle County. Delaware AECs are:

- [The Delaware Skills Center](#) in New Castle, DE
 - Ideal for students with minimal experience or mastery of a skill.
 - Focuses on rapid training programs to quickly prepare students for specific trades.
 - Providing skills training to unemployed or underemployed DE residents to create a pathway to an in-demand career
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- [New Castle County Vo-Tech Adult Ed](#) in Wilmington, DE
- Offers diverse technical training tailored to the needs of local industries.
 - Providing superior Adult Education instruction to empower all students to achieve their aspirations.
- [POLYTECH Adult Ed](#) in Dover, DE
 - Provides comprehensive programs in various trades, preparing students for in-demand careers.
 - Empowering individuals to reach new heights through education, training, and career development.
 -
- [Sussex Tech Adult Ed](#) in Georgetown, DE
 - Serves the southern region of Delaware, offering a wide range of training opportunities.
 - Over 6 decades of providing instructional services to adult residents of Sussex County and our neighboring communities.

These AECs offer a variety of technical training programs in the following fields:

- **Construction-** such as Electrical, HVAC-R, Plumbing, Electronic Systems, and Construction Laborer.
- **Education:** Early Childhood Teacher and Assistant

- **Healthcare-** such as Dental Assistant, Practical Nursing, Phlebotomy, CNA, Home Health Aide, Insurance Billing, Medical Coding, Medical Assisting, and Pharmacy Technician
- **Logistics-** such as Forklift, Heavy Equipment Operator, Warehouse Operations, and CDL-A.
- **Maintenance-** such as Industrial Maintenance, Automotive Technician, Diesel Repair, Water, Wastewater, CAD, and Aircraft Maintenance.
- **Operations-** Information technology and supervision such as: in IT Fundamentals, Computer Support/Help Desk, Networking, and Cybersecurity

Tuition-Free Opportunities: In-demand jobs are often tuition-free for eligible students. It's recommended to contact the specific AEC to determine your eligibility for these opportunities.

Delaware Technical Community College (DTCC)

DTCC offers [technical and business training programs](#), known as Workforce Development, at all four campuses: Dover, Georgetown, Stanton, and Wilmington. These programs help students upgrade their skills and enter various careers in:

- **Business:** such as Real Estate and Bookkeeping
- **Construction:** such as Electrical, HVAC, and Welding
- **Healthcare:** such as EKG Technician, Clinical Medical Assistant, and Phlebotomy Technician
- **Logistics:** such as Heavy Equipment Operator and CDL
- **Maintenance:** such as Diesel and Fire Protection
- **Operations:** such as Cisco Networking and JAVA Academies

Tuition-Free Opportunity: Students that attend DTCC may be eligible to attend tuition-free through the SEED+ scholarships, to learn more click [here](#).

Technical Training Programs in Delaware

List of programs that do not require professional work experience/skills. Some programs have a limited number of seats available and are more competitive.

	Delaware Skills Center	New Castle County Adult Ed	POLYTECH Adult Ed	Sussex Tech Adult Ed	Delaware Technical Community College
Construction Electrical, HVAC-R, Plumbing, Electronic Systems, Construction Laborer Program Hours can range from 107 -632 Classes are offered: ☀ During the Day ☾ During the Night ☀ ☾ Day or Night	Carpentry ☀ Electrical ☀ HVAC ☀ Plumbing ☀ Welding & Fabrication ☀ Welding ☾	Carpentry ☾ Construction Craft Laborer ☾ Electrical ☾ Electronic Systems Tech ☾ HVAC ☾ Ironworking ☾ Masonry ☾ Millwright ☾ Pipefitting ☾ Plumbing ☾ Sheet Metal ☾ Welding ☾	Electrical ☾ Electronic Systems Technician ☾ HVAC-R ☾ Plumbing ☾	Workforce Plumbing Training Pre-Apprenticeship ☾ Millwright Tech ☾	Construction Technology ☾ ☀ HVAC Technology Certificate ☀ ☾ Welding Apprenticeship Program ☀ Welding Technician Certificate ☀ ☾
Education		Early Childcare & Education ☾			

<p>Early Childhood Teacher and Assistant</p> <p>Program hours can range from 100-150.</p> <p>Classes are offered: ☀ During the Day ☾ During the Night ☀ ☾ Day or Night</p>					
<p>Healthcare Dental Assistant, Practical Nursing, Phlebotomy, CNA, Home Health Aide, Insurance Billing, Medical Coding, Medical Assisting, and Pharmacy Technician</p> <p>Program hours can range from 78-1,635.</p> <p>Classes are offered: ☀ During the Day ☾ During the Night ☀ ☾ Day or Night</p>	<p>CNA ☀</p> <p>LPN ☀</p>	<p>Dental Assisting & X-Ray Certification ☾</p>	<p>CNA ☀ ☾</p> <p>Dental Assistant ☾</p> <p>Home Health Aide (ELL) ☾</p> <p>Medical Assistant ☀</p> <p>Medical Insurance Billing ☀ ☾</p> <p>Phlebotomy Tech ☀ ☾</p>	<p>CNA ☀</p> <p>Home Health Aide ☾</p> <p>Home Health Aide (ELL) ☾</p> <p>Clinical Medical Assistant ☾</p> <p>Medical Coding & Billing Specialist ☾</p> <p>Pharmacy Tech ☾</p> <p>Phlebotomy Tech ☾</p> <p>Dental Assistant ☾</p>	<p>Certified EKG Technician ☾</p> <p>Certified Medical Administrative Assistant ☀ ☾</p> <p>Certified Clinical Medical Assistant with or without Phlebotomy ☀ ☾</p> <p>Certified Hemodialysis Technician ☀ ☾</p> <p>Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate Program ☀ ☾</p> <p>Certified Phlebotomy Technician ☀ ☾</p>

					Dental Assistant ☼ ☾ EMT ☾ Polysomnography (Sleep) Technician ☼ Medical Coding Specialist ☼ ☾ Certified Pharmacy Technician ☼ ☾ Certified Central Service Technician Training (Sterile Processing) ☼ ☾ Community Health Worker ☾ Patient Care Assistant ☾
Logistics Forklift, Heavy Equipment Operator, Warehouse Operations, and CDL-A. <i>* Please note that CDL-A programs require a clean</i>	CDL ☼	Heavy Equipment Operations ☾	CDL-A ☼ ☾	CDL-A Training ☼ ☾	Heavy Equipment Operator ☼ ☾

<i>driving record and Delaware driving license.</i> Program hours can range from 160-450 Classes are offered: ☀ During the Day ☾ During the Night ☀ ☾ Day or Night					
Maintenance Industrial Maintenance, Automotive Technician, Diesel Repair, Water, Wastewater, CAD, and Aircraft Maintenance Program hours can range from 48-600 Classes are offered: ☀ During the Day ☾ During the Night ☀ ☾ Day or Night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X 	ASE Auto Tech ☾ Instrumentation ☾	Aircraft Maintenance Pre-Apprenticeship ☾ Aircraft Maintenance Technician ☀ Automotive Tech ☾ Basic Welding: For Beginners ☾ Electro-Mechanical Tech ☀ Maintenance Fundamentals: For Beginners ☾ Maintenance Fundamentals (ELL)	Intro to Marine Service Tech ☾	Machinist Essentials ☀ ☾

			☾ Welding & Metal Fabrication ☾		
Operations Information technology and supervision such as: in IT Fundamentals, Computer Support/Help Desk, Networking, and Cybersecurity Program hours can range from 72-630 Classes are offered: ☼ During the Day ☾ During the Night ☼ ☾ Day or Night	Computer Network Support ☼		IT Tech Fundamentals: For Beginners ☾		

Trade Schools

These schools are designed to provide students with hands-on learning in a specific industry or career in an in-demand trade (HVAC, electrician, dental hygiene, paramedic, etc.). On average these programs take just under a year to 2 years, and students graduate with an industry certificate or associated degree.

Trade schools are designed to provide students with hands-on learning and classroom or lab instruction in a specific industry or career in an in-demand trade, particularly in an in-demand trades. Trade schools are an excellent option for students who want to quickly gain the skills needed to enter the workforce in a specific field or industry.

Trade programs are focused on practical skills and can often include internships or apprenticeships that provide hands-on real-world experience with on-the-job training for a specific occupation:

- On average these programs take just under a year to 2 years.
- After, students graduate with an industry recognized certificate or an associate degree.
 - If a student attended a trade school with a registered apprenticeship, they may qualify for a Journey person certification.

Insert: {Trade Schools}

Financial Aid 101 for Technical Training

When considering attending a technical training program, the cost can be a concern for students and their caregivers. This guide will help you understand the costs associated with technical training programs and explore various options to make it more affordable and accessible.

What are the common costs?

The “**Cost of Attendance**” associated with attending a technical training program can include the following:

- *Tuition and fees*: the amount of money for instruction and other services.
- *Books and Supplies*: estimated cost of textbooks, software, materials, and other supplies
- *Transportation*: the cost of traveling to and from the program
- *Miscellaneous Costs*: other potential costs such as health insurance, required technology/equipment, and loan fees.

How do most students pay for these costs?

Students pay for the Cost of Attendance in a variety of ways including:

- *Personal Savings*- the personal savings of their caregiver and/or the student
- *Financial Aid*- money to help pay for post-secondary education

What is Financial Aid?

Financial aid is money that students use to help them pay for college or technical training. There are two main types of financial aid: **gift aid** and **self-help aid**.

Gift Aid- Money that does not have to be paid back includes grants and scholarships.

- **Grants-** You can get grants from the federal government, your state, and your training center. Below are some common technical training grants for Delaware residents:
 - [Blue Collar Training Grant](#) that covers the total tuition cost for qualified participants.
 - **Pell Grants-** These are federal funds that students can use for a limited number of eligible training programs such as Practical Nurse. The award amount varies based on need, with a maximum annual award of \$7,395 (the amount may change annually). You must complete the [FAFSA](#) to be eligible for Pell Grants.
 - [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#): funds grants for students who are either unemployed or underemployed. Courses eligible for this funding are labeled "WIOA" in most course catalogs. Please contact the Delaware Department of Labor for more information about applying for WIOA education and training funds at joblink.delaware.gov.
- **Scholarships-** These are awarded by the training center or private organizations like foundations or businesses based on financial need, academic performance, or for specific training programs. Some scholarships will require you to complete the [FAFSA](#) or prove financial need. Below are scholarship resources:
 - [Delaware Scholarship Compendium](#)- A compilation of over 300 local and national scholarships for Delaware residents to help pay for postsecondary education. Click [here](#) to see a list of scholarships for trade schools and technical training programs.
 - [SEED+ Scholarship](#): Students that attend DTCC may be eligible to attend tuition-free through the SEED+ scholarships.

Self-help Aid refers to financial assistance that requires repayment, typically through loans, employment, or payment plans.

- **Tuition Assistance:** This funding is provided by your employer, state, or federal government. There are two general types of tuition assistance:
 - **Tuition Reimbursement:** You would pay for tuition and fees upfront, and your employer will reimburse you up to a certain amount.
 - **Direction Tuition Payment:** Your tuition and fees are paid upfront by your employer or deferred by the training provider

Common programs in Delaware:

- [Elevate Delaware](#): This program provides up to \$10,000 to individuals for approved non-credit certificate programs provided by the Delaware Workforce Development Board guidance of eligible programs. Students are eligible for Elevate Delaware if they are employed by an employer with less than 51

employees and are subject to Delaware income tax. For more information visit: [Elevate Delaware](#)

- **[Focus on Alternative Skills Training \(FAST\)](#)**- This is a tuition assistance program for eligible Delaware residents enrolled in an approved certificate program. You can receive up to \$10,000 in free tuition assistance to help reach your goals and find your dream job! Complete the [Fast Program Interest Form](#) or learn more [here](#).

Areas of training include:

- Automotive Technician
- CDL
- Diesel
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Dental Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Insurance Billing
- Phlebotomy Technician
- Practical Nursing

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Resources

- [American Job Center](#)
- [Apprenticeships.Gov](#)
- [Delaware Skills Center](#), New Castle, DE, [Course Catalog](#)
- [DTCC Workforce Training](#), Stanton, Georgetown, Dover, DE
- [New Castle County Votech Adult Ed](#), Wilmington, DE, [Course Catalog](#)
- [Polytech Adult Education](#), Woodside, Delaware, [Course Catalog](#)
- [Sussex Tech Adult Education](#), Georgetown, DE, [Course Catalog](#)

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