

What can you do with a major in Welding and Joining Technology?

Campus(s) program is offered: Appalachian Campus

What are the most likely job titles one can expect to qualify for after completing this program?

- Machine Setters
- Machine Operators and Tenders

What do students express as the thing they enjoy the most about this program?

The ability to connect two or more pieces of metal together in a more or less permanent manner. Most grads begin to understand that the ability to create something is greatly enhanced once they learn to weld.

What is the least?

This work can be hot, but overall the single greatest comment is distance from home to the school.

What are some typical misconceptions about this program of study?

A skilled welder has a very large ego. Anyone with poor sense of self-worth may find some frustration, until they realize this really just amounts to time in the seat to learn the skills we all had to learn. Normally work ethic and practice nets a good entry level welder.

What are some essential skills and abilities a student needs to have in order to be successful in program of study?

What are typical skills and abilities that a student gains once he/she has completed the program?

Better math skills and communication skills

Typical work activities/occupational functions:

- Set up machines and monitor them for unusual sound or vibration
- Lift material onto machines, manually or with a hoist
- Operate metal or plastic molding, casting, or core making machines
- Adjust the machines' speed and other settings
- Adjust cutting machine settings to account for irregularities
- Stop machines and remove finished products
- Test and measure finished products
- Remove and replace dull cutting tools
- Document production numbers in a computer database

What additional training would you recommend for a student who wants to go to the next level in this field?

If an internship is available, go for it.

Do any of the occupational courses transfer easily?

A grad from welding can go the next step to an AAS.

What are some common limitations, if any, in this program that students face?

- If a student has a controlled substance abuse problem, employment will be very difficult
 - Sometimes prior felony convictions will limit where work is available
 - These workers operate powerful, high-speed machines that can be dangerous, so they must observe safety rules
 - Operators usually wear protective equipment, such as safety glasses, to protect them from flying particles of metal or plastic, earplugs to guard against noise from the machines, and steel-toed boots, to shield their feet from heavy objects that are dropped
 - Many modern machines are enclosed, minimizing the exposure of workers to noise, dust, and lubricants used during machining
 - Other required safety equipment varies by work setting and machine
- For example, respirators are common for those in the plastics industry who work near materials that emit dangerous fumes or dust
- Overtime is common, and because many manufacturers run the machinery long hours, evening and weekend work also is common

Are there any exams/certifications that a student needs to take after completing the courses? Are these exams/certifications offered on campus?

Although certification is not required, a growing number of employers prefer that applicants become certified. Certification can show competence and professionalism and can be helpful for advancement. The National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) has developed skills standards in 24 operational areas and offers 52 skills certifications. The Fabricators & Manufacturers Association International also has developed a Precision Sheet Metal Operator (PSMO) certification program.

Certification tests are not available through the college.

Possible employment settings:

- Manufacturers
- Construction
- Private businesses
- Self-employment

Names of potential employers:

- Shaw Stainless and Alloy
- Chart Industries
- Royston
- Steel Stitch
- Hydro-Chem

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