

Heavy Equipment Technology Program

The heavy equipment technology program is designed to train students for careers as heavy equipment mechanics. Heavy equipment includes equipment such as cranes, bulldozers, front-end loaders, rollers, backhoes, and hoists. Emphasis will be on the fundamentals as it relates to diesel engines and fuel system used in heavy equipment. This program will introduce students to units of measurement, electron theory, wiring diagrams, schematics and symbols, basic principles of hydraulics, basic engine components, intake and exhaust systems, introduction of welding and power train functions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply to the program?

You will apply during your junior year for the program. The program is for seniors only.

How do I apply?

Your counselor will have the applications. You must complete the application and submit the following documents: transcript, proof of attendance, and 2 faculty recommendations. Applications will then be reviewed by a committee. Successful applicants will move to the next stage which is an interview and aptitude test. Parents/guardians are required to attend a parent meeting once the final applicants have been selected.

What if I do not have a 95% attendance rate?

Attendance is an indicator of success. If you do not attend class the chances are you will fail. Also, poor attendance is not accepted at the workplace. Therefore you must maintain a 95% attendance rate while in the program. If you were absent due to an illness you must provide documentation. Your application may still be considered.

What if my GPA is below 2.5 on a 4.0 grading scale?

If you demonstrate that you are serious about the program and show motivation you will be considered for the program. If for any reason that changes during the program you will be put on probation and possibly recommended to drop. It is important that you put forth the necessary effort to succeed in the program.

What if I did not take a career and technical education class such as in the industrial tech program at my high school?

Although it is preferred that you participated in at least 1 class in the industrial tech area prior to applying to this program it is not mandatory.

Do I have to take a drug test?

Yes, this is a standard procedure in the industry and required by Local 150. If you continue in this area you will be required to submit to random drug testing. Working on heavy equipment while under the influence is not tolerated.

Where is the class located?

At the new Local 150 Operating Engineers State-of-the-art training facility located in Wilmington. The facility is located at 19800 W. South Arsenal Rd., Wilmington, IL.

Will I need to provide my own transportation?

That will vary from school to school. Check with your school counselor to see if they are providing transportation.

What time is the class?

The will be held from 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Do I follow my school's calendar?

Several schools are participating in the program so a common calendar has been developed by Wilco Area Career Center. That means that your school may have an early dismissal for a school function or holiday but you will have to attend the heavy equipment technology class. Attendance expectations will be reviewed with students with students and parents signing an acknowledgement of rules.

Will I still get a Christmas break and spring break?

Yes. Wilco is working with the districts to develop a common calendar for major holidays.

What if I get into the program and don't like it?

If you find that this isn't what you anticipated you may drop the program at semester time. With that said, from the time you decide to drop until you are actually removed from the program, you are still enrolled in the program and must continue to fulfill the requirements such as homework. You don't want to jeopardize the credit you earned for that semester.

Will this guarantee me a place in the Union?

No, we cannot guarantee acceptance into an apprenticeship program. It is anticipated that successfully completing the program will be valuable and prepare you for meeting the criteria for entry into an apprenticeship program. **This program is not a direct entry program.**

What is the role of the parent/guardian?

Parents/guardians must be supportive of their child's participation. They become signers to a written agreement along with the student. They must insure that the student has reliable means of transportation if the school does not provide transportation to the facility. They should encourage good study habits and preparation of assignments. Like any educational program, success is created through a partnership of all parties involved.