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Education Today / Career Tomorrow

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Boat Building

When you think "Florida," what are the images that come to mind? Sun, water, beaches, boats and surfboards are most likely on that list. Have you ever wondered how a boat, surfboard or skim board is made? In the MTI Boat Building Program, you will discover the fundamentals of Composite Construction Technology and Vacuum Assisted Resin Transfer Molding as applies to Fabricated Boat Building.

In the Boat Building Program, students will participate in the

production of a watercraft from start to finish. The process begins with initial design, goes to blueprint, production, completion and, finally, use. These techniques are also being adapted into the aircraft and automotive industries.

Graduates from the program can go directly into the industry or continue their studies by attending Manatee Community College for an Associates of Science Degree and Florida State University for a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering. Some may

want to start their own small company or develop a weekend hobby.

Those who register for the August 2008 program will also have the opportunity to create and keep their own fiberglass skim board. This class is anticipated to fill-up, so interested students should register now to save a spot in the next class.

See you at MTI...and on the water!

Job Outlook

Careers in composite and fiberglass fabrication are expanding beyond the traditional role found only in boatbuilding. Today, many more industries including aviation, aerospace, automotive, and the military are using this technology to produce products that have greater strength, less weight and superior corrosion resistance than traditional materials.

Applicants should have fabrication and engineering skills, knowledge of the materials and creativity.

Money Matters

Career: Boatbuilder/Composite Fabricator

Job Description: Produces products constructed of reinforced plastics using materials such as resins, woven glass, cores, Kevlar, carbon fiber, and other materials. Must have the ability to design and create molds and ultimately a finished product. Familiarity with a variety of the field's concepts, practices, and procedures is required. Relies on experience and judgment to accomplish goals. Projects include a variety of complicated tasks. A wide degree of creativity and latitude is expected.

Salary: \$24,960 - \$46,000

Education Needed

In the past, workers in this industry have received "on the job training." This training ranged in quality from the very best to extremely poor. As these products require a higher degree of quality and sophistication, formal training is becoming more and more necessary. National training is available to become a Certified Composite Technician. The aviation, aerospace, and military manufacturers not only need well-trained workers in the manufacturing process, but in repair, as well.



Entry level workers must have excellent math and science skills. The knowledge and ability to use both hand and powered shop tools is a must.

For more information on how to start your career in Boat Building and Composite Construction Technology, please contact:

Career Counselor Vickie Miller
(941) 751-7900 ext. 2016
millerv@manateeschools.net

For additional information, please check-out our new website:
<http://www.FloridaBoatBuildingSchool.com>

It's a Matter of Perspective

"The boat industry always has ups and downs—boats are luxury items. The important thing to remember is that what we are teaching here at MTI are basic procedures that can be used in many different industries. For example, in the near future, air planes will be constructed completely out of fiberglass. These students will have the skills they need to keep up with the changes." - David Stinette

"I've have always wanted to build things and I have always loved the water. I put two and two together and thought this program was perfect. There is a lot of hands-on experience every day and that is the best part of learning. Boat building is a long process and you have to take your time on a mold, but once you have finished, you know it will be perfect forever; that makes it worth it." - James Loggins

Teacher
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Student

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