

Education Today / Career Tomorrow

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Electronics Technician

Businesses depend on complex electronic equipment for many functions.

Industrial controls automatically monitor and direct production processes on the factory floor. Transmitters and antennae provide communication links for many organizations.

Electric power companies use electronic equipment to operate and control generating plants, substations, and monitoring equipment.

The Federal Government uses radar and missile control systems to provide for the national defense and to direct commercial air traffic. These complex pieces of electronic equipment are installed, maintained, and repaired by electronics technicians.

Some industrial electronic equipment is self-monitoring and alerts repairers to malfunctions. When equipment breaks down, technicians will check for common causes of trouble, such as loose connections or obviously defective

components. If routine checks do not locate the trouble, technicians refer to manufacturers' specifications to locate the problem.

Electronics Technicians also install, adjust, inspect, test and maintain mobile electronic communication equipment, including sound, sonar, security, navigation, and surveillance systems on trains, watercraft, or other vehicles.

Source: *The Occupational Outlook Handbook*

Job Outlook

Overall employment of electronics technicians is expected to grow by 3 percent through the year 2016.

Equipment will become more sophisticated and will be used more frequently as businesses strive to lower costs by increasing and improving automation.

Job opportunities should be best for applicants with an associate degree in electronics, certification, and related experience.

In addition to employment growth, the need to replace workers who transfer to other occupations or leave the labor force will result in some openings.

Money Matters

Career: Electronics Technician

Job Description: Constructs, maintains, and tests systems and components. Requires a high school diploma or its equivalent. May be required to complete formal training in area of specialty. Has knowledge of commonly-used concepts, practices, and procedures within a particular field. Relies on instructions to perform the functions of the job.

Salary: \$29,970 to \$61,380 per year.

For more information on how to start your career in Electronics, please contact:

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Education Needed

Repairing and maintaining precision instruments requires a high level of skill and attention to detail. Some devices contain tiny gears that must be manufactured to within one one-hundredth of a millimeter of design specifications, and other devices contain sophisticated electronic controls.

Employers often prefer applicants with a degree or certification from a community college or technical school. Workers who become certified in a specialty area may gain additional responsibilities and be awarded higher pay. Entry-level employees may begin by working with experienced technicians who provide technical guidance, and work independently after developing the necessary skills.

Electronics technicians should have good eyesight and color perception to work with the intricate components used in electronic equipment. Field technicians work closely with customers and should have good communication skills and a neat appearance. Employers also may require that field technicians have a driver's license.

Experienced technicians with advanced training may become specialists or troubleshooters who help repairers diagnose difficult problems. Workers with leadership ability may become supervisors of other repairers. Some experienced workers open their own repair shops.



"In the Electronics program at Manatee Technical Institute, we take someone who knows nothing about electronics and we literally start at the atom, working our way up. The hands-on experience that the student receives in the classroom prepares him or her for when they enter the work force. Electronics is an exciting field and one that is growing; it is a rapidly changing industry. The job outlook is extremely promising!" - Wendy Sheehan

"I got into the program because I was 'familiar with electronics' meaning I liked to blow stuff up when I was a child. I wanted to learn what went on behind the scenes; I plan to turn that interest into a career. I will continue my education with a college degree and eventually begin a career in bio-med. I am also considering a military career. As long as what I am doing helps other people, I am happy doing what I do." - Chad Carothers

Teacher



Student

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