

Education Today / Career Tomorrow

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MANATEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION



Marine Service Technology

Marine technicians inspect, maintain, and repair boats of all kinds. Using diagnostic equipment, they test and repair boat engines, hulls, propellers, rigging, masts, sails, and navigational equipment.

Marine Technicians know the basics of all hand tools. Also, they use electronic diagnostic equipment, such as fluke meters and computer diagnostics.

Technicians learn all out board mechanics, basic inboard tune ups, hydraulics, and electronics.

They have standard OSHA general safety training, as well as certifications in CPR and fork lift operation.

In the industry, marine technicians must learn how to adapt to different situations. They are skilled in reading instructions and understanding technical manuals.

After marine technology training, there are many job opportunities. One might choose to become a mechanic or rigger. There are also many options for where to work. Options include marinas, boat

manufacturers, amusement parks, boat rental agencies, and even the military.

Once an employee holds a position for six months to a year, he or she can advance in the company. The best way to accomplish this is to increase certifications. Most marinas offer training on-site. The more certifications an employee holds, the more money he or she will earn.

Source:
www.careers.stateuniversity.com

Job Outlook

The employment outlook for marine technicians is high through 2014. As people have more leisure time, sales of boats are expected to increase. However, boat design is becoming more advanced, so those with the best training and experience may find the most job opportunities. The more training, the easier it will be to get a job.

In large marinas and boatyards, technicians can advance to become supervisors. Some experienced technicians open their own sales and service yards.

Money

Career: Marine Service Technician

Job description: Services boat, ship, and yacht engines. Performs electrical repairs. Handles ignition, charging, starting and cooling systems, as well as fuel and carburetion.

Annual Salary: Salaries vary, depending on skill, experience, and location. Salaries for marine technicians range from \$21,000 to \$40,000 per year.

For more information on how to start your career as a Marine Service Technician, please contact:
Career Counselor Vickie Miller
(941) 751-7900 ext. 2016
millerv@manateeschools.net

Education

Helpful high school courses include small engine repair, automobile mechanics, science, and business math. Classes that teach computer skills are important, as well.

An increasing number of technicians get two years of training at technical schools. Useful courses include blueprint reading, machine repair, woodworking, and fiberglass repair.

Most new workers get on-the-job training from experienced technicians. Many employers send their technicians to short training courses offered by boat and engine manufacturers and distributors.

For trainee jobs, employers hire people with mechanical aptitude who are knowledgeable about the fundamentals of small 2- and 4-stroke engines. Knowledge of basic electronics is essential because many parts of small vehicles and engines are electric. Once employed, trainees learn routine service tasks under the guidance of experienced mechanics by replacing ignition points and spark plugs or by taking apart, assembling, and testing new equipment.

Employers in the industry look for highly skilled individuals; technicians must be able to perform as expected, be on time, and be a consistent worker.



Teacher

Student

"The industry is screaming for technicians; there are not enough workers to fill the positions open. The job outlook is extremely positive right now. New boat sales are down, but people are keeping their older boats and they need to be repaired. This program has 100 percent placement. Since I started teaching here in 1999, every student that I placed has stayed in this industry."

- Kelly Ewing

"Joining the Marine Service Technology program at MTI was a career move for me; I worked as a parts manager before. The most interesting thing I have learned in class is how these engines really work. I thought I knew, but really I didn't have a clue. After I graduate from the program, I want to start my own business in Mobile Marine. So, in the future, remember me!"

- Kelvin Jones

THIS EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP CREATED BY HEATHER HUMPHREY AND SPONSORED BY



Main Campus
5603 34th Street West
(941) 751-7900



East Campus
5520 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.
(941) 752-8100



www.niemanatee.com

The Education Today/Career Tomorrow page is published every Thursday in The Bradenton Herald. Provided by Newspaper in Education Christine Fritch, (941) 748-0411 ext. 5464. E-mail: cfritch@bradenton.com and Julie Beacham-Hoie, Page Editor

www.manateetechnicalinstitute.org