



Occupational profile



Mechanical engineering technician

Summary Of Occupation

Mechanical engineering technicians assist engineers with the design, manufacture, installation, operation and maintenance of machinery and other mechanical equipment. They draw up designs for new machinery, assemble and install new or altered mechanical equipment and parts and carry out workshop and field testing as part of the quality control process. They may also calculate building, maintenance and operation costs, including the expected lifetime of each component of the machine.

Knowledge Skills and Attributes

A mechanical engineering technician needs:

- to enjoy technical and engineering activities
- good communication skills
- good problem-solving skills
- the ability to work as part of a team
- an interest in, and understanding of, different machines and how they work.

Working Conditions

Mechanical engineering technicians usually work in workshops, factories, power plants, building sites or offices. In Western Australia, they usually work in the Perth metropolitan area and some regional areas. The work environment can be noisy and dirty, and some of the machinery may potentially be dangerous. There are often strict safety procedures that must be followed to minimise the risk of working with heavy machinery. Work hours can vary significantly, depending on the employer and type of work being conducted. Some mechanical engineering technicians may work shifts, which can include nights and weekends. Many work on a Fly in/Fly out basis.

Salary Details

On average, mechanical engineering draftspersons and technicians can expect to earn between \$1 500 and \$1 999 per week (\$78 000 and \$103 999 per year), depending on the organisation they work for, and their level of experience.

Tools and Technologies

Mechanical engineering technicians usually use Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software when drawing up new plans or blueprints. When installing new equipment or carrying out maintenance they may use a variety of hand and power tools. Safety equipment may include steel-capped boots, safety goggles, hard-hats, overalls, high-visibility clothing, gloves and hearing protection.

Education and Training Entrance Requirements

To become a mechanical engineering technician you usually need to complete a qualification in technical or mechanical engineering.

The Diploma of Engineering – Technical and the Diploma of Engineering – Technical (Mechanical) are offered at registered training organisations throughout Western Australia.

You can also complete a traineeship. The mechanical engineering technician and the engineering associate – mechanical traineeships usually take 24 to 36 months to complete.