



# CAREER PATH Industrial & Engineering Technology

CAREER CLUSTER  
**Manufacturing**

CAREER PATHWAY  
**Production**



## MACHINE OPERATOR

Set up, operate, or tend machines, such as glass forming machines, plodder machines, and tuber machines, to shape and form products, such as glassware, food, rubber, soap, brick, tile, clay, wax, tobacco, or cosmetics.

### Knowledge and Skills Needed

In addition to courses required for high school graduation, essential skills and knowledge needed for a career as a machine operator are reinforced by taking rigorous and relevant courses, as well as participating in work-based experiences and student organization activities.

*(See the Sample Personal Plan of Study for suggested coursework, activities, and knowledge and skills to pursue in preparation of an occupation in this Career Cluster.)*

### Education Requirements

Occupation	Percent of Missouri employees aged 25 to 44 in the occupation whose highest level of educational attainment is:		
	High School or Less	Some College	Bachelor Degree or More
Extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders	75.8%	21.4%	0.0%
Other production occupations	66.4%	27.1%	6.5%
Industrial production managers	25.4%	31.6%	43.0%

Most Common Educational Level: Moderate-term on-the-job training

Note: Be sure to learn whether your occupation has a specific requirement for education or licensing.

Apprenticeships are available for more than 240 occupations. Visit [www.oa.doleta.gov/bat.cfm](http://www.oa.doleta.gov/bat.cfm)

### National and State Wage Information

Location	Pay Period	2006		
		Entry*	Median	Experienced**
United States	Hourly	\$10.68	\$13.32	\$16.75
	Yearly	\$22,200	\$27,700	\$34,800
Missouri	Hourly	\$11.01	\$13.31	\$15.84
	Yearly	\$22,900	\$27,700	\$32,900

Based on (\*) lower 25% and (\*\*) upper 25% percentile of wages

### National and State Employment Trends

Machine Operator	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings*
	2006	2016		
United States	81,200	74,700	-8 %	1,490
Missouri	2,600	2,770	+ 6 %	90

\*The estimate for Job Openings includes both turnover that results from people who leave the occupation (e.g. quit, retire, death) and new jobs that are created.

### Educational Opportunities

*Note: This list may not be all inclusive.*

*For more information about Missouri schools and programs, visit [www.dhe.mo.gov](http://www.dhe.mo.gov)*

(no schools listed)



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