The Program

Cabrillo's Engineering Technology Program is aimed at giving you the knowledge, skills and abilities for a successful career in hands-on technical work such as, design drafting, manufacturing and electronics. Our program is specifically designed to provide you with a wide variety of courses to experience each specialization. This allows you to discover the specialty that best suits your interests and abilities.

At Cabrillo, you receive a high standard of instruction from expert faculty with many years of real-world experience. They share their knowledge and experience with you so that you are better prepared to succeed in your career as an engineering technician.

Our faculty work closely with an industry advisory board to ensure that what you learn qualifies you for such entry level jobs as an engineering technician, design draftsperson, bench/testing technician, civil survey draftsperson and animation artist, among many others.

In addition, should you discover a passion for the field of engineering, you can do what many Cabrillo students do—complete your engineering lower division course work in our Engineering Transfer program. You can then transfer to a top-ranked four-year university and earn a bachelor’s degree.

How To Enroll

STEP 1 You may apply online at www.cabrillo.edu. If you have any questions, contact the Cabrillo College Admissions & Records Office in Building 100 of the Aptos campus located on 6500 Soquel Drive, phone (831) 749-6201; or in Watsonville on 318 Union Street, phone (831) 786-4701.

STEP 2 You will receive registration information in the mail including your time to begin registering.

Who May Enroll

Cabrillo College is open to anyone 18 years of age or older, or anyone with a high school diploma or proficiency certificate. High school students also may attend classes at Cabrillo on a limited basis with the permission of their high school principals.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Cabrillo Community College does not discriminate on the basis of ethnic group identification, national origin, religion, age, sex, race, color, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation in any of its policies, procedures, or practices. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, the college’s programs and activities, including vocational education programs. Limited English language skills will not be a barrier to admission to and participation in vocational education programs.

Plan De Acción No Discriminatoria

Cabrillo Community College no discrimina a base de identificación con grupos étnicos, nacionalidad de origen, religión, edad, sexo, raza, color, incapacidad mental o física ni orientación sexual en ninguna de sus reglamentaciones, procedimientos o prácticas. Este plan de acción no discriminatoria incluye la admisión y el acceso a los programas y actividades, y el tratamiento y el empleo en los mismos, incluyendo la educación vocacional. Tener limitadas destrezas en el idioma inglés no constituirá una barrera para ser admitido o participar en los programas de educación vocacional.

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Engineering Technology

Where You Work
You can work in many different industries—architecture, cinematography, construction, high technology and manufacturing to name a few. You can choose to specialize in a particular area, such as computer-aided design, animation, or be more of a generalist and become qualified to do entry-level work in a field such as building plant maintenance. You can work locally, in the Silicon Valley or anywhere throughout the U.S.

Skills and Abilities You Need
Most people who are successful in this field enjoy troubleshooting and fixing problems. This means you: like working with your hands, are curious about what causes something to happen, are good at breaking down a problem into different parts, can methodically review and examine those parts and figure out the solution. You are also comfortable with using applied math (e.g. fractions, decimals) and geometry.

For more information
cabrillo.edu/academics/etech

“Completing courses in the Etech program allowed me to significantly advance my skill level in CAD, thereby increasing my productivity in the workplace. All of the instructors I had were knowledgeable and passionate about their work.” — Al Gemigniani
Machinist/Entrepreneur

“The Etech program allows students from all facets of the design world to learn the necessary skills to be productive using CAD. My studies at Cabrillo benefited my career to the point that I opened a home-based Architectural Drafting business.” — David Holderman, Architectural Drafterman

Mechanical Engineering Technician
Assist mechanical engineers in designing, developing, testing and manufacturing machinery, parts and other mechanical equipment. They troubleshoot design problems, create flow charts, prepare drawings, take accurate measurements, lay out production lines, perform quality control testing, analyze data and write routine reports. You can work in a laboratory, office, industrial plant, or at a construction site.

Architectural Drafter
Your job is to help an architect design lots of different types of structures from skyscrapers to homes. To do that, you will perform a wide variety of tasks such as doing mathematical calculations, analyzing data, designs and specifications and communicating that information accurately. You'll also develop plans for programs or projects, direct and coordinate activities of workers or staff and draw maps or charts, prototypes, plans, or maps to scale using computer-aided drafting and computer graphics design and animation software. You'll read and interpret blueprints, schematics and technical drawings and recommend solutions to engineering problems. You may even research property records. You usually work in an office and make visits to construction sites and various manufacturers’ and builders’ offices.

Engineering Technology Industry
Some of the specialty trades you can focus on are: architectural design, civil survey drafting, computer-aided drafting, computer animation, and manufacturing. The California State Employment Development Department says that more than one million jobs in the field of engineering technology will be needed by 2016 with estimated earnings of $36,000 to $78,000 per year.

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