

Erie Community College Overhead Electric Line Worker Program

In Partnership with National Grid and the IBEW Local 97

Students can obtain training to enter into the Overhead Electric Line Worker field. Credits are applicable to a two year accredited Associate Degree in Electrical Engineering Technology.

Potential Employment

The electric utility industry is facing a critical shortage of qualified workers, specifically the Overhead Electric Line Worker and technicians, due to a large number of workers retiring. This shortage is occurring at a time when the technical demand of the job is increasing; as equipment and customers demand higher reliability from the electric system. Based on student's grades, skills, and attitudes, employment opportunities exist with local power companies.

Program Description

Erie Community College's Overhead Electric Line Worker Program offers theory and practice training in the electric utility power industry. The program prepares students for entry into an apprenticeship servicing overhead electric distribution power lines. The classes taught are also applicable to other apprenticeships. The students are presented with a solid foundation in electrical theory along with hands-on laboratory experience. The time spent in the classroom will consist of the essential theory and hands-on skills necessary for an Overhead Electric Line Worker. Heavy emphasis is placed on safe work practices.

Selection Process

Step 1

A number of evening information sessions will be held at ECC, dates and times to be announced. The sessions, hosted by utility representatives will provide prospective students with background information on the program and introduce them to the skills necessary for this program.

Step 2

Interested students must first apply to ECC through the Electrical Engineering Technology department. The application for the program can be downloaded from <http://www.ecc.edu/academics/electricalengineering.asp>. or obtained by calling the department at (716) 851-1566.

Step 3

Prior to class registration, ECC requires successful placement testing in English and Math, unless you are waived from testing. Scheduling of the placement test will be the responsibility of the prospective student. Information on placement testing and being waived from placement testing can be found online at <http://www.ecc.edu/admissions/placement.asp>.

Step 4

An overhead line worker is a physically and mentally demanding occupation, and these positions are highly competitive. In addition to adequate academic performance, students must possess the physical ability to perform heavy work in an elevated position. Student's physical ability will be assessed using the Cooper Physical Abilities Test. Students must also attend an orientation where they will be exposed to a series of tasks typically performed by overhead line workers.

Step 5

Based upon academic and successful demonstration of the ability to perform line work, students will be selected to continue in the program by enrolling in EL 170 Electric Power System. During this class, students will need to obtain their CDL Class A Driving Permit and many of the Pre-Employment requirements for employment will be conducted. Students successfully completing this class will continue on in the EL 173 Electric Power Overhead Construction class for eight hours per day for three weeks during the summer.

Step 6

After successfully completing all academic requirements, students will have the opportunity to participate in a paid Internship with a utility company. Note that students participating in an internship must fulfill all the pre-employment requirements of the Company that they will be working for and will typically include but not limited to: Aptitude test such as the Construction and Skilled Trades Test (CAST), pre-employment physical, drug and alcohol screening, physical abilities test, background check, and possession of a commercial drivers license or permit without infractions.

Program Course Listing

First Year, Fall Semester

EL 110 Electricity I & EL 111 Lab	Credits: 5
MT 126 College Math II or MT 122	Credits: 4
PH 260 Technical Physics I & PH 261 Lab	Credits: 4

First Year, Spring Semester

EL 150 Electricity II & EL 161 Lab	Credits: 5
EL 153 Electronic Fabrication	Credits: 1.5
EL 170 Electric Power System	Credits: 3
EN 110 English	Credits: 3

Summer

EL 173 Electric Power Overhead Construction	Credits: 4
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Total hours 29.5

Frequently Asked Questions

I have college credits already, will these transfer?

Credits from other college accredited programs may be accepted by the EL department. Decisions are made on an individual basis.

I am an Electrician, Technician, or in a Related Field—do I need to take all the courses?

Electricians and related professionals are welcome to try to “test out” of several of the EL courses. You must successfully pass the final exam for the course you are testing for. Course syllabi are available through the EL department.

Can I do the program Part Time?

Yes, although this is not highly recommended. Some course sections are available in the evenings, but several are only available during daytime hours. Please contact us for details.

My Placement Test scores say I need to take Math at a lower level than MT 126 or MT 122, can I still enter the program?

Because of the rigorous math needed to be successful in this program, participants need to be able to successfully complete MT 126 or MT 122 during the first semester of the program. Potential participants are encouraged to take their additional Math courses (or English, if applicable) during a semester prior to starting the program.

For More Information, Contact:

Contact the Choices In Technology Office at 851-1575 or techchoices@ecc.edu

Call the Electrical Engineering Technology Department at (716) 851-1566

E-mail the department chair dalessio@ecc.edu

Check the website at: <http://www.ecc.edu/academics/electricalengineering.asp>