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Education Today / Career Tomorrow

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MANATEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION



Drafting

Drafters prepare technical drawings and plans, which are used to build everything from manufactured products such as toys, toasters, industrial machinery, and spacecraft to structures such as houses, office buildings, and oil and gas pipelines. Despite the use of CADD systems, manual drafting and sketching are used in certain applications.

In the past, drafters sat at drawing boards and used pencils, pens, compasses, protractors, triangles, and other drafting devices to prepare a drawing by hand. Now, most drafters

use Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD) systems to prepare drawings.

With CADD systems, drafters can create and store drawings electronically. Drafters' drawings provide visual guidelines and show how to construct a structure. Drawings include technical details and specify dimensions, materials, and procedures.

Two types of specialties in Drafting include architectural and mechanical. Architectural drafters draw architectural and structural features of buildings and

other structures. These workers may specialize in a type of structure, such as residential or commercial, or in a kind of material used, such as reinforced concrete, masonry, steel, or timber.

Mechanical drafters prepare drawings showing the detail and assembly of a wide variety of machinery and mechanical devices, indicating dimensions, fastening methods, and other requirements.

Source:
The Occupational Outlook Handbook

Job Outlook

Manufacturing processes will increase the demand for drafting services. Drafters are breaking out of the traditional drafting role and are doing work traditionally performed by engineers and architects, also increasing demand.

Growth is expected to be greatest for mechanical and architectural drafters. Most job openings are expected to arise from the need to replace drafters who transfer to other occupations, leave the labor force, or retire.

Opportunities should be best for individuals with at least 2 years of postsecondary training.

Money Matters

Career: Mechanical and Architectural Drafters

Job Description: *Mechanical Drafter:* Prepares drawings; responsible for resolving associated mechanical and fabrication problems.

Architectural Drafter: Conceives, designs, plans and constructs models for new or modified structures.

Salary:
 Architect Drafter: \$24,974- \$70,130
 Mechanical Drafter: \$20,552- \$69,093

For more information on how to start your career in Drafting, please contact: Career Counselor Terri Parrish (941) 751-7900 ext. 2018 parrishm@manateeschools.net

Education Needed

Employers prefer applicants who have completed postsecondary school training in drafting, which is offered by technical institutes, community colleges, and some 4-year colleges and universities. Employers are most interested in applicants with well-developed drafting and mechanical drawing skills; knowledge of drafting standards, mathematics, science, and engineering technology; and a solid background in CADD techniques.

High school courses in mathematics, science, computer technology, design, computer graphics and drafting are useful for people considering a drafting career.

Many technical institutes offer 2-year associate degree programs. Their programs vary considerably in length and in the type of courses offered. Some public technical schools serve local students and emphasize the type of training preferred by local employers. Most require a high school diploma or its equivalent for admission.

Mechanical ability and visual aptitude are important for drafters. Prospective drafters should be able to draw well and perform detailed work accurately and neatly. Artistic ability and knowledge of manufacturing is also helpful.



"I am very excited about the future of the drafting program. Here at MTI, we are always looking for ways to advance. We are starting an Expert Certification for AutoCAD. Also, we are currently working with employers to incorporate an eco-friendly house (a green house) into our architectural drafting projects. We are excited for SkillsUSA. This year, I am confident that we have the talent to take it to Nationals!" - Ralph Vincent

Teacher

"Before coming to Manatee Technical Institute, my background was in carpentry. I wanted to continue my learning, so I decided to get into the drafting program. The program has taught me a lot! Right now, I am learning art computer animation and design. After graduation, I want to design large-scale commercial buildings. Eventually, my plan is to open my own business." - Charles Martin

Student

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