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# Education Today / Career Tomorrow

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## Electrician

Electricians bring electricity into homes, businesses, and factories. They install and maintain the wiring, fuses, and other components through which electricity flows. Many electricians also install and maintain electrical machines in factories.

Electricians usually start their work by reading blueprints of circuits, outlets, load centers, panel boards, and other equipment. To ensure public safety, electricians follow the National Electrical Code and building codes.

Electricians connect wires to circuit breakers, transformers, outlets, or other components. When installing wiring, electricians use hand tools such as conduit benders, screwdrivers, pliers, knives, hacksaws, and wire strippers, as well as power tools. Later, they use ammeters, ohmmeters, voltmeters, oscilloscopes, and other equipment to test connections and ensure the compatibility and safety of components.

Electricians generally focus on either construction or maintenance, although many do both. Electricians specializing in construction primarily install wiring systems into factories, businesses, and new homes. Electricians specializing in maintenance work fix existing electrical systems and repair electrical equipment.

Source:  
*The Occupational Outlook Handbook*

## Job Outlook

Job prospects should be excellent, particularly for workers with the widest range of skills.

As the population and economy grow, more electricians will be needed to install and maintain electrical devices and wiring in homes, factories, offices, and other structures.

An increase in power plant construction over the next ten years will require many additional electricians. New technologies also are expected to continue to spur demand for these workers.

## Money Matters

**Career:** Electrician

**Job Description:** Inspects, repairs, installs, modifies, and maintains electrical/electronic systems, circuits and equipment. Has knowledge of commonly-used concepts, practices, and procedures within a particular field. Relies on instructions and pre-established guidelines to perform the functions of the job.

**Salary:** \$27,000 - 63,000 annually

For more information on how to start your career as an Electrician, please contact:

Career Counselor Vickie Miller  
 (941) 751-7900 ext. 2016  
 millerv@manateeschools.net

## Education Needed

Many electricians learn their trade through apprenticeships. These programs combine paid on-the-job training with related classroom instruction.

Some people start their classroom training before seeking an apprenticeship. A number of technical schools offer training to become an electrician. Employers often hire students who complete these programs and usually start them at a more advanced level than those without this training.

Most States require electricians to be licensed. Although licensing requirements vary from State to State, electricians usually must pass an examination that tests their knowledge of electrical theory, the National Electrical Code, and local electric and building codes.

Other skills needed to become an electrician include manual dexterity, eye-hand coordination, physical fitness, and a good sense of balance. They also need good color vision because workers frequently must identify electrical wires by color.

For those who seek to advance, it is increasingly important to be able to communicate in English and Spanish in order to relay instructions and safety precautions to workers with limited understanding of English; Spanish-speaking workers make up a large part of the construction workforce in many areas.



"Our current students are apprentices and we are preparing them to continue their career in electricity. The student's next step is to become a journeyman, which requires 4 years of experience and passing an exam. After journeyman, he or she would become an electrical contractor. From there, he or she can work in many fields, commercial or industrial. We teach the very basics and the students climb the ladder from there." - Larry Beebe

"The teachers are great here at MTI and the information is interesting. We are learning about magnetism right now. It is all starting to make sense! I enrolled in the Electricity program because I knew I needed training to make money. The field is growing and careers are getting better and better. The more training, the more opportunities I will have. My goal is to become a journeyman. From there, I want to get as far as I can." - Chrisad Bacon

**Teacher****Student**

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