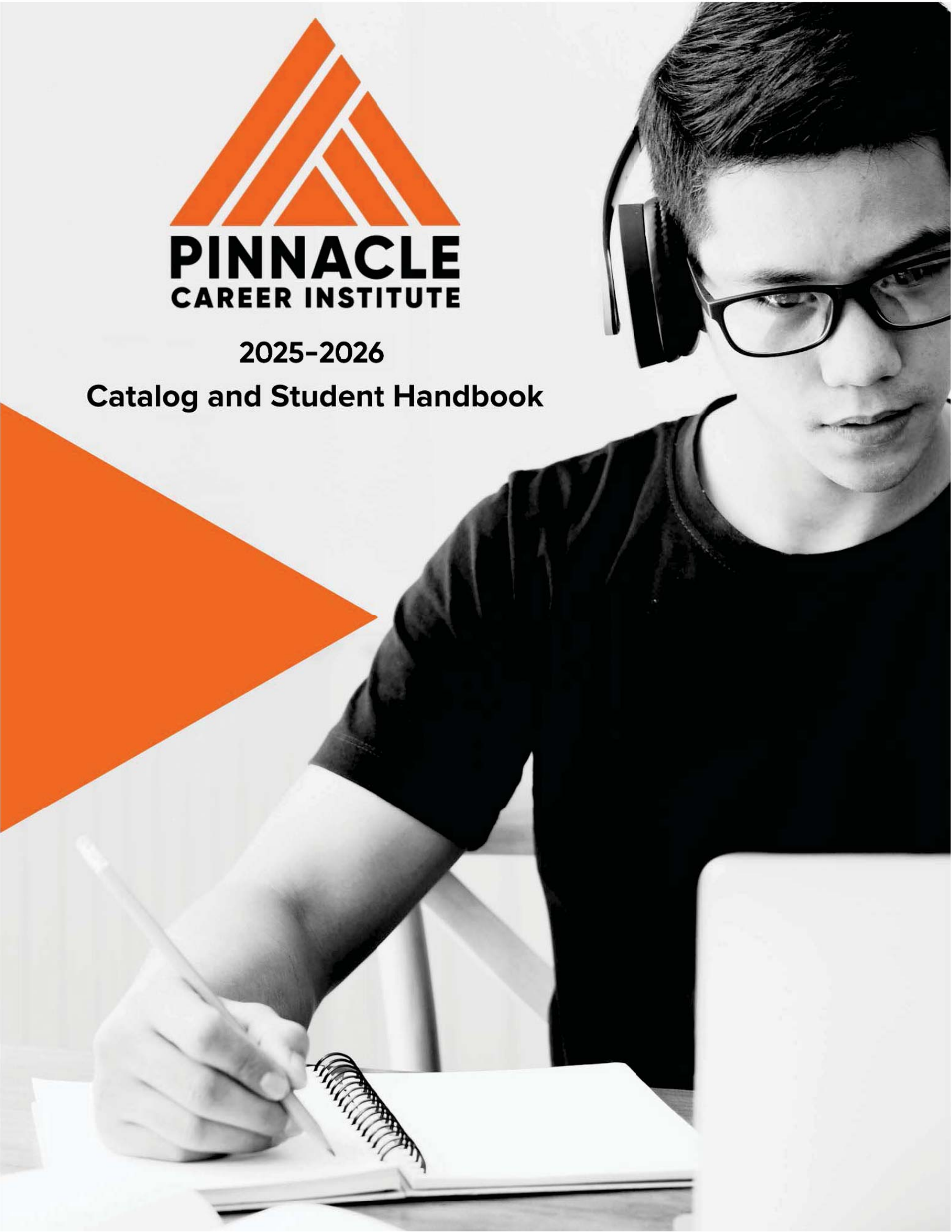




2025-2026

## Catalog and Student Handbook





**2025 - 2026**  
**CATALOG**  
**&**  
**STUDENT HANDBOOK**

Publication 7.1.2025

Volume 25.07 7/1/2025

This catalog reflects the regulations, policies, procedures, programs and fees for Pinnacle Career Institute as of July 1, 2025.

Pinnacle Career Institute reserves the right to adopt, amend, and implement its policies and procedures, as it deems appropriate and necessary. Under certain circumstances, Pinnacle Career Institute may grant exceptions to its policies and procedures in individual cases when it is determined, in the sole and absolute discretion of the institution, that such action would be appropriate to further the mission and purposes of the institution. The provisions of this catalog are not to be regarded as a contract between the student and Pinnacle Career Institute.

The institution also reserves the right to correct any clerical errors as necessary. Prospective students should contact admissions for information regarding any such possible changes. Currently enrolled students should consult the campus Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways, school Campus President, or other appropriate administrators for additional information. Pinnacle Career Institute owns all trademarked images. Unless otherwise noted, other images are used under license from Shutterstock.com.

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## Welcome

On behalf of the administration, faculty, and staff I would like to welcome you to Pinnacle Career Institute (PCI). Pursuing higher education and preparation for your future career is often life changing and one of the most important, challenging, and rewarding experiences you will undertake. We realize how important the decision to continue your education is to you and your future. In this regard, it is central to the mission of PCI to empower our students to better their lives and to contribute positively to the organizations and communities in which they work and live. We accomplish these overarching goals by providing quality higher education with a student-centered focus that will prepare you for your career.

We are all fully committed to mentoring and supporting you in your pursuit of your education and career goals. The ultimate measure of our success is the success of you, our student.

In the pages of this catalog, you will find information regarding the academic calendar, program requirements, policies and procedures, financial aid, and other important information that will help guide you throughout your program to graduation. I would encourage you to take the time to read the catalog and if you have further questions to please ask a member of the campus administration, faculty, or staff for clarification.

Once again, welcome to PCI and best wishes as you pursue your education and career goals.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Freeman

Chief Executive Officer

Pinnacle Career Institute



## Mission Statement

The mission of Pinnacle Career Institute is to empower our students to better their lives and to contribute positively to the organizations and communities in which they work and live. We accomplish this by providing quality higher education with a student-centered focus that prepares them for careers in a skilled trades industry.

We are passionate and agile in responding to the changing needs of our students, employers, and the communities we serve through processes of ongoing assessment, evaluation, and improvement.

## Core Values

**Integrity** – We do what we say we will do.

**Accountability** – We hold ourselves and each other accountable daily for fulfilling our mission and purposes and adhering to our core values.

**Up-Serve Students** – We enthusiastically strive to provide our students with quality support services that consistently exceed their expectations – every day, every time.

**Academic Excellence** – We hold ourselves and our students, through dedication and commitment, to the high standards of academic excellence required to prepare them for successful careers.

**Teamwork** – We work together to optimize our students' lives through education.

## Institutional Objectives

- ❖ Provide educational programs to a growing and diverse student population. We serve students of diverse age, cultures, socioeconomic backgrounds, and abilities.
- ❖ Offer quality career education programs at the certificate and associates degree level, as documented by institutional and student outcome assessment processes, that allow students to model and demonstrate the desired competencies, skills, and behaviors identified by employers for entry-level employment and career advancement.
- ❖ Provide quality education through delivery formats that are conducive to the needs of the student population.
- ❖ Up-serve students by providing support services and a caring environment that assists them in achieving their educational and employment goals.

- ❖ Foster a collaborative organizational culture that values the involvement of employees in institutional effectiveness, student learning outcomes assessment, planning, and improvement processes and provides them an opportunity for personal professional development.
- ❖ Pursue collaboration and alliances with organizations, governments, and associations on a local, regional, national, and international basis.
- ❖ Promote a quality teaching, learning, and working environment, by providing the management, policies and procedures, human capital, facilities, learning resources, equipment, and new technologies that enhance and extend quality programs and services.
- ❖ Efficiently and responsibly use our fiscal resources to provide a quality educational experience for our students and ensure our capacity to continually grow and develop as a financially sound and stable institution

## Location

Pinnacle Career Institute

11500 N.W. Ambassador Drive, Suite 221, Kansas City, MO 64153

816-331-5700

## Notification to Students

Pinnacle Career Institute (PCI) students come from multiple states and have widely different career aspirations and goals. Each student is a unique learner and person. While PCI provides career assistance to each student in finding employment in his or her chosen field, PCI does not guarantee employment. Factors unique to each student that can limit employment opportunities include but are not limited to:

- Conviction of a felony or serious misdemeanor,
- Physical condition or health issues that prevent or hinder employment,
- Geographic limitations and inability to relocate,
- Poor work history,
- Poor language skills or communication barriers,
- Unique personality traits such as fear of heights or of working in small work places,
- History of or contemporary substance abuse,

- Personal bankruptcy,
- Other issues that raise doubts in the mind of an employer as to the suitability of a student to become an employee.

Pinnacle Career Institute has a long and proud tradition of helping students enter and succeed in careers. Your unique situation may aid or hinder your career.

#### **DISCLAIMER**

*PINNACLE CAREER INSTITUTE (PCI) MAKES NO PROMISES OR GUARANTEES OF EMPLOYMENT. DUE TO UNIQUE FACTORS AND ATTRIBUTES OF EACH STUDENT, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT EVEN AFTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING A PCI PROGRAM; A STUDENT MAY NOT FIND EMPLOYMENT. STUDENTS SHOULD CONSIDER THEIR OWN UNIQUE "EMPLOYABILITY" PRIOR TO ENROLLING IN ANY COLLEGE OR CAREER PREPARATION PROGRAM.*

*We are committed to the advancement of quality higher education with a student-centered focus that prepares students for careers in a skilled trades industry. The school offers equal opportunities without distinction or discrimination because of race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, or disability, in any of its academic programs or activities, or in any of its employment practices.*

## Institutional Overview

### Statement of Legal Control

Pinnacle Career Institute is wholly owned by Manufacturers Technical Institutes, Inc., a Missouri corporation, doing business as (d/b/a) Pinnacle Career Institute.

The officers of the corporation are:

Jeffrey C. Freeman, Chief Executive Officer/ Chairman of the Board/Treasurer  
 Scott F. Freeman, Vice President/Secretary

### History

The institution offered its first resident class in October 1953 as Electronics Institute, Inc., a Missouri corporation. The Electronics Institute operated as a subsidiary of the National School of Aeronautics, Inc. until July 1959, at which time it was sold to Mr. H.V. Leslie of Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Leslie continued to operate the Electronics Institute in Kansas City until June 1, 1965, at which time a Kansas City group headed by Mr. E.L. Wasson bought it. In May 1970, Mr. Jeremiah Ford II acquired majority interest in the school and continued its operation until August 1971. At that time Buck Engineering Co., Inc., Farmingdale, New Jersey, formed a wholly owned subsidiary, Manufacturers Technical Institutes, Inc. (M.T.I.), which acquired in a purchase transaction all of the capital stock of Electronics Institute, Inc. Electronics Institute, Inc. was subsequently merged into M.T.I. On October 19, 1988, Southwest Tracor, Inc., of Belton, Missouri purchased all stock of M.T.I. from Buck Engineering, Inc. M.T.I., then became a subsidiary of Southwest Tracor, Inc.

On June 2, 1992, Scott F. Freeman and Jeffrey C. Freeman of Belton, Missouri, purchased 100% of the stock from Southwest Tracor, Inc. and over the next decade began the process of diversifying the programs available on the campus. The school changed its name in September 2002 to more accurately reflect the expansion and diversification of educational programs to Pinnacle Career Institute (PCI).

In January of 2005, Pinnacle Career Institute was approved to offer Online Education programs through online course delivery. Pinnacle Career Institute currently serves students across the United States through its online education program offerings.

Accreditation and Approvals

Pinnacle Career Institute is certified to operate in the State of Missouri by the Department of Higher Education and has approval from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide training under the Veterans Administration, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Workforce Investment Act. The Missouri and Kansas Rehabilitation Commissions contract with Pinnacle Career Institute for training. Pinnacle Career Institute has been a member of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity (SARA) Agreement since 2015.



Pinnacle Career Institute is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC). The Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) is a recognized accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education.

Memberships

- |                                                |                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| National Association Student Financial Aid     | Service Members Opportunity Colleges (SOC)        |
| Administrators American Clean Power (ACP)      | Career Education Colleges and Universities (CECU) |
| Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation Association | Kansas City Chamber of Commerce                   |
| National Wireless Safety Alliance (NWSA)       | Global Wind Organization (GWO)                    |

Organization

Board of Directors

Jeffrey C. Freeman, Chairman, CEO

Scott F. Freeman, Secretary, Treasurer

Pinnacle Career Institute Leadership Team

- Valerie Bujak, Campus President
- Matthew Beer, Senior Vice President
- Sharon Baldwin, Vice President of Finance
- Tracy Baldomino, Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways

- Consuela Benson, Director of Career Services
- Dillon Wadsack, Executive Director Business Development
- Daisy Hernandez, Director of Financial Aid
- Bayleigh Vick, Director of Admissions

## Critical Strengths of the College

### Faculty

PCI Instructors are selected for their academic qualifications, professional backgrounds, and experience in the field. They ensure core competencies and learning objectives are met through dynamic lecture, lab, and practical experiences. In addition to teaching, Program Directors provide leadership for academic excellence through faculty and student support, and regular programmatic review and assessment of student learning outcomes.

### Class Size

Although class sizes vary naturally depending on program, campus, and delivery, limiting class sizes enables students to receive the attention and practical experience necessary for their chosen fields.

### Programs

The career-oriented programs offered at Pinnacle Career Institute are composed of courses designed to meet the specific needs of business communities. The Program Advisory Committee provides oversight for the design development, management, and evaluation of all academic programs and curricula. The committee, comprised of faculty and staff, relies on the feedback and involvement of outside subject matter experts, including program advisory committee members, employers, and graduates working in the field, which assist in validating the needs and viability of programs and changes in field practices.

### School Facilities

Pinnacle Career Institute, located at 11500 NW Ambassador Drive in Kansas City, occupies approximately 6,000 square feet in the historic TWA professional building. Easily accessible off I-29, the campus is designed to include modern lecture rooms and laboratories for each program, including indoor and outdoor climbing towers for boot camp participants in the Wind and Tower programs. In addition, there is an onsite café available and various eating establishments, hotels, and housing choices nearby.

Pinnacle Career Institute meets the physical requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The facility is equipped with specifically designed entrances and other amenities for those needing accommodations. Ample free parking is immediately adjacent to the buildings.

Students have full access to the online library database for research needs and a computer lab is available for student use on campus.



## Programs of Study

# HVAC Technician

## Certificate

Online delivery - 40 weeks, 60 Quarter Credit Hours

CIP 47.0201

This program prepares individuals to apply technical knowledge and skills to repair, install, service and maintain the operating condition of heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration systems. It includes instruction in diagnostic techniques, the use of testing equipment and the principles of mechanics, electricity, and electronics as they relate to the repair of heating, air conditioning and refrigeration systems.

Graduates are prepared for entry-level positions including, but not limited to, A/C Tech; HVAC Installer; HVAC Mechanic; HVAC Service Tech; HVAC Specialist; HVAC Tech; HVAC Technician; Service Technician.

PCI has determined that the HVAC program meets the entry-level requirements that allow graduates to gain employment in the HVAC field in the following states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia Wisconsin and Wyoming.

PCI has determined that the following states may require licensing and/or registration as an apprentice to gain employment in the HVAC field: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia and Washington.

PCI recommends checking your state and local municipality requirements prior to enrollment into PCI's HVAC program.

### Program Objectives:

1. Explain the basic principles of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration.
2. Describe the principles that guide HVAC installation and service techniques.
3. Describe the fundamentals of electricity and basic electrical theory.
4. Explain the fundamental concepts of heating and combustion.
5. Identify various types of compressors and common primary controls.
6. Describe various blower types and applications.
7. Identify various air distribution system layouts.

8. Measure, cut, and bend copper tubing to prepare it for joining.
9. Identify different types of plastic piping.
10. Identify the characteristics and uses of steel pipe.
11. Explain how transformers operate and identify various types of transformers used in HVAC systems.
12. Explain the various types of induction motors and explain how they operate.
13. Describe the desirable characteristics of refrigerants and the various applications that require these characteristics.
14. Describe refrigerant containment and management requirements and the equipment used to recover refrigerants.
15. Describe the operation and installation of heat pump systems.
16. Identify and describe common gaskets, packing materials, seals, and bearings.
17. Describe the properties of common lubricants and how they are applied.
18. Identify the basic requirements and components of a furnace venting system.
19. Identify different types of flexible duct and explain how it is installed.
20. Describe the methods used to fabricate, repair, suspend, and support fiberglass duct.
21. Describe basic commercial airside systems and their operating characteristics.
22. Describe the processes and equipment used to control humidity levels and air cleanliness.
23. Describe hydronic systems and the principles of closed-system water flow.
24. Describe the primary types of hot-water heating systems and their components.
25. Identify various methods of joining sheet metal and the methods used to suspend and support sheet metal duct.

#### Major Equipment List:

Variety of hand tools, electrical training boards, metal benders, refrigeration training units, walk-in cooler and freezer, small refrigeration units, roof top package units, electric air handlers, heat pumps, torches, recovery units and drums for refrigerant, vacuum pumps, nitrogen bottles, 3 phase motors, DC trainer.



Course Code	Course Title	Didactic	Lab	Extern	Instructional Hours	Outside Prep	Total Clock + Outside Prep Hours	Quarter Credit Hours
TRDS100	<i>Introduction to Trade Skills and Professionalism</i>	90	30	0	120	30	150	8.0
TRDS201	<i>Fundamental Trade Skills</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
TRDS202	<i>Electrical Fundamentals</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
HV101	<i>Introduction to HVAC</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
HV102	<i>HVAC Maintenance and Piping</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
HV103	<i>Duct Systems, Heat Pumps, and Hydronic Systems</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
HV104	<i>Refrigeration</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
HV201	<i>HVAC Technician Practicum</i>	40	80	0	120	30	150	7.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>610</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>60</b>

## Course Descriptions

**TRDS100 Introduction to Trade Skills and Professionalism** | No prerequisites; 8.0 Quarter Credits; 90 didactic/30 lab/30 outside prep hours

This introductory course provides an orientation to the school, program and course expectations, learning tools and technologies. The course introduces students to an overview of work safety principles and math for trade occupations. Additional topics include examination of success principles and soft skills required in the workplace. Students learn how these skills and principles can be applied to improve self-image, attitude, and professional demeanor.

**TRDS201 Fundamental Trade Skills** | Prerequisite: TRDS100; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours

This covers fundamental topics for the trades including hand tools, power tools, tool inspection and safety, fasteners and torque, dimensional drawings and schematics, ropes, slings, rigging, load balancing, wiring and cabling, terminating wiring and cabling, and inspection of wiring and cabling. Each section provides practical application of the material covered.

**TRDS202 Electrical Fundamentals** | *Prerequisite: TRDS201; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

This course covers fundamental electrical topics for the trades including current, voltage, resistance, power, Ohm's law, electrical test equipment, resistive circuits, reactive circuits, and transformers, calculations related to electrical circuits, electrical safety, and practical application for the trades.

**HV101 Introduction to HVAC** | *Prerequisite: TRDS202; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

This course covers the principles of heating, ventilating, and air conditioning; different types and designs of gas furnaces, basic installation and service; fundamental operating concepts of the refrigeration cycle, control concepts; equipment and materials used to create air distribution systems; review of the importance of establishing good relationships with customers, how to communicate in a positive manner, and dealing with problem customers.

**HV102 HVAC Maintenance and Piping** | *Prerequisite: HV101; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

This course covers fasteners, hardware, and wiring terminations used in HVAC systems; transformers, theory and operation of induction motors, testing AC circuits and components, types of copper and plastic piping used in HVAC, fittings and assembly of copper and plastic pipes; soldering and brazing copper tubing; joining and installation of threaded and grooved carbon steel piping; guidelines for inspection and periodic maintenance of various systems and accessories; application of gaskets and seals; adjustment of belt drives.

**HV103 Duct Systems, Heat Pumps, and Hydronic Systems** | *Prerequisite: HV101; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

This course covers the principles of venting fossil fuel furnaces, installing vent systems; layout, fabrication, and installation of sheet metal and fiberglass duct systems. Installation of registers, diffusers, dampers, other duct accessories; attaching and supporting flex duct; systems and equipment used in commercial airside systems; processes and devices used to control humidity and air cleanliness; introduction to hot water heating systems; operation of heat pumps, heat pump installation and service procedures.

**HV104 Refrigeration** | *Prerequisite: HV101; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

This course covers the operating principles of compressors used in air conditioning, the installation, service, and repair procedures for compressors; characteristics and applications of pure and blended refrigerants, lubricating oils used in the refrigeration process; refrigerant handling and equipment service procedures for HVAC systems; operating principles applications, installation, and adjustment of fixed and adjustable expansion devices used in air conditioning equipment.

**HV201 HVAC Technician Practicum | Prerequisite: TRDS100, TRDS201, TRDS202, HV101, HV102, HV103, HV104; 7.0 Quarter Credits; 40 didactic/80 lab/30 outside prep hours. Students must be at a 2.0 CGPA to be eligible to attend.**

***Please note this course includes a 10-consecutive day, with travel, residential component in Kansas City, Missouri.***

At the core of this intensive and challenging capstone course is an 80-hour boot camp in Kansas City, Missouri. This time provides a review of program learning objectives, as well as the opportunity to learn and practice program competencies including

- basic furnace installation and service
- creating air distribution systems
- testing AC circuits and components
- assembly of copper, plastic, and carbon steel piping
- installing vent systems
- fabrication and installation of sheet metal and fiberglass duct systems
- installation and maintenance of heat pumps
- installation and service of compressors
- using refrigerants and lubricating oils

Students will also sit for the OSHA - 10, and EPA 608 Universal Certification that includes Core, Type I, Type II, and Type III Certifications.

Arrangements are provided for air travel to Kansas City, Missouri, lodging, program-related local transportation, and meals during the day. These costs are included in program tuition. Discretionary incidental expenses for evening meals, snacks or any other personal needs are the responsibility of the student.

# Tower Technician

## Certificate

Online Delivery 30 Weeks – 45 Quarter Credit Hours

CIP 47.0103

This certification course is designed to provide students with a broad knowledge of telecommunications maintenance and modifications necessary for entry-level employment as a tower technician. The program includes training and the ability to test for certifications in OSHA-10; AED/CPR, and First Aid; Telecommunications Tower Technician 1 (TTT-1) certification from the National Wireless Safety Alliance.

Graduates are prepared for entry-level positions including, but not limited to, Cell Tower Technician, Communications Tower Technician, Tower Climber, Tower Technician, and Mapping Technician.

### Program Objectives:

1. Explain basic skills and equipment needed to perform work in the wireless communications industry.
2. Identify the different types of towers in the industry and their structural components.
3. Explain various carrier standards.
4. Successfully train in LOTO (Lock-out Tag out), radio frequency awareness and construction rigging awareness.
5. Identify various rope types and ratings used in the wireless industry and demonstrate the ability to inspect, maintain, and safely use those ropes in various environments and workloads.
6. Identify the different types of rigging equipment and discuss how to inspect and use it properly.
7. Organize a plan of action to properly rig and moving heavy objects in a safe and reliable manner, including load calculation.
8. Explain history of various antenna system theories, components, and technologies.
9. Organize a plan of action to install various carrier specific antennas and other equipment.
10. Demonstrate the ability to mount/dismount antennas and set azimuths.
11. Demonstrate the ability to correctly weatherproof cell tower equipment.
12. Generate closeout packages and reports.
13. Ability to sit for AED, CPR and First Aid certification.

## Major Equipment List

60 ft. outdoor tower (Monopole), indoor climbing lab, ladders with safety climb system, climbing and safety equipment including full body tower harnesses, ropes and cables, lanyards, hard hats, safety glasses; rescue kits, trauma and first aid kits.

Course Code	Course Title	Didactic	Lab	Extern	Instructional Hours	Outside Prep	Total Clock + Outside Prep Hours	Quarter Credit Hours
TRDS100	<i>Introduction to Trades and Professionalism</i>	90	30	0	120	30	150	8.0
TRDS201	<i>Fundamental Trade Skills</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
TRDS202	<i>Electrical Fundamentals</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
TT101	<i>Tower Industry</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
TT102	<i>Climbing, Rigging, and Safety</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
TT201	<i>Tower Technician Practicum</i>	40	80	0	120	30	150	7.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>450</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>45.0</b>

## Course Descriptions

**TRDS100 Introduction to Trade Skills and Professionalism** | *No prerequisites; 8.0 Quarter Credits; 90 didactic/30 lab/30 outside prep hours*

This introductory course provides an orientation to the school, program and course expectations, learning tools and technologies. The course introduces students to an overview of work safety principles and math for trade occupations.

Additional topics include examination of success principles and soft skills required in the workplace. Students learn how these skills and principles can be applied to improve self-image, attitude, and professional demeanor.

**TRDS201 Fundamental Trade Skills** | *Prerequisite: TRDS100; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

This covers fundamental topics for the trades including hand tools, power tools, tool inspection and safety, fasteners and torque, dimensional drawings and schematics, ropes, slings, rigging, load balancing, wiring and cabling, terminating wiring and cabling, and inspection of wiring and cabling. Each section provides practical application of the material covered.

**TRDS202 Electrical Fundamentals** | *Prerequisite: TRDS201; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

This course covers fundamental electrical topics for the trades including current, voltage, resistance, power, Ohm's law, electrical test equipment, resistive circuits, reactive circuits, transformers, and calculations related to electrical circuits, electrical safety, and practical application for the trades.

**TT101 Tower Industry** | *Prerequisite: TRDS202; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

The course provides an introduction to the tower industry and job logistics including site conditions, RF radiation awareness, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); antenna mounts, microwave equipment, tower lighting systems, ground systems, Tower Mounted Equipment (TME); platform, electrical, equipment safety, and basic welding and exothermic concepts.

**TT102 Climbing, Rigging, and Safety** | *Prerequisite: TT101; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

This course covers requirements and use of fall protection, basic rescue techniques, climbing standards, controlled descent; identifying types and characteristics of structures, structure maintenance and inspection, grounding systems; inspection and use of hoists, platform operation, tower-specific rigging operations, and inspection and use of gin poles.

**TT201 Tower Technician Practicum** | *Prerequisite: TRDS100, TRDS201, TRDS202, TT101, TT102; 7.0 Quarter Credits; 40 didactic/80 lab/30 outside prep hours – Students must be at a 2.0 CGPA to be eligible to attend.*

***Please note this course includes a 10 consecutive day, with travel, residential component in Kansas City, Missouri.***

At the core of this intensive and challenging capstone course is an 80-hour boot camp in Kansas City, Missouri. This time provides a review of program learning objectives, the opportunity to learn and practice program competencies, and earn OSHA-10, CPR, and First Aid certifications. At the completion of the boot camp, students will be eligible to sit for the National Wireless Safety Alliance Telecommunications Tower Technician Level 1 computer based (TTT-1) exam consisting of the following:

- Demonstrating ability to follow assembly instructions
- Proper tool use
- Climbing techniques
- Signaling
- Performing work at height
- Weather proofing
- Tying knots

Arrangements are provided for air travel to Kansas City, Missouri, lodging, program-related local transportation, and meals during the day. These costs are included in program tuition. Discretionary incidental expenses for evening meals, snacks or any other personal needs are the responsibility of the student.

# Wind Turbine Technician

## Certificate

Online delivery - 40 weeks, 60 Quarter Credit Hours

CIP 15.0403

The certificate program prepares graduates for entry-level jobs in a variety of electro-mechanical technician areas, with a focus on electrical power generation, wind turbine installation/repair, and working at heights. Similar positions may be found in areas relating to the repair and installation of electronics and hydraulics. The program includes training and the ability to test for GWO BST (Global Wind Organization Basic Safety Training) to include Working at Heights, First Aid, CPR/AED, Manual Handling, Fire Awareness; GWO BTT (Global Wind Organization Basic Technical Training) to include Electrical, Hydraulics, Mechanical; OSHA 30; NFPA 70E; LOTO (Lock-out Tag out); Confined Space; and Hytorc Certifications.

## Certificate Program Objectives:

1. Demonstrate best practices for workplace safety and identify common hazards for working in an industrial setting, including working at heights.
2. Obtain Global Wind Organization (GWO) Working at Height certification.
3. Discuss proper rigging techniques for moving heavy objects in a safe and reliable manner.
4. Explain core fundamentals of hydraulics through the discussion and application of the laws and principles of fluid power and components.
5. Define basic principles of electricity flow, including direct current (DC) and alternating current (AC) power.
6. Troubleshooting series, parallel and combination electrical circuits.
7. Describe the core functions of a wind turbine and wind farm including the various components and electromechanical systems.
8. Analyze the common maintenance procedures and troubleshooting methodology of electromechanical devices, including the various systems of a wind turbine.
9. Compare and contrast various alternative energy forms with conventional power generation.
10. Demonstrate appropriate soft skills and quality communication within a professional setting.

## Major Equipment List

Multimeters, 24-volt DC motors, 120 AC motor, contactors, relays, switches, electrical and hydraulic trainers, HYTROC-bolting, wires, 60 ft. outdoor tower (Monopole), indoor climbing lab, ladders with safety climb system, climbing and safety equipment including full body tower harnesses, ropes and cables, lanyards, hard hats, safety glasses; rescue kits, personal evacuation kits, trauma and first aid kits.



Course Code	Course Title	Didactic	Lab	Extern	Instructional Hours	Outside Prep	Total Clock + Outside Prep Hours	Quarter Credits Hours
TRDS100	<i>Introduction to Trade Skills and Professionalism</i>	90	30	0	120	30	150	8.0
TRDS201	<i>Fundamental Trade Skills</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
TRDS202	<i>Electrical Fundamentals</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
WTT119	<i>Power Industry Fundamentals</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
WTT121	<i>Wind Turbine Science</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
WTT123	<i>Wind Industry</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
WTT127	<i>Wind Power Systems</i>	80	40	0	120	30	150	7.5
WTT133	<i>Wind Turbine Technician Practicum</i>	40	80	0	120	30	150	7.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>610</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>60.0</b>

## Course Descriptions

**TRDS100 Introduction to Trade Skills and Professionalism** | No prerequisites; 8.0 Quarter Credits; 90 didactic/30 lab/30 outside prep hours

This introductory course provides an orientation to the school, program and course expectations, learning tools and technologies. The course introduces students to an overview of work safety principles and math for trade occupations.

Additional topics include examination of success principles and soft skills required in the workplace. Students learn how these skills and principles can be applied to improve self-image, attitude, and professional demeanor.

**TRDS201 Fundamental Trade Skills** | *Prerequisite: TRDS100; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

This covers fundamental topics for the trades including hand tools, power tools, tool inspection and safety, fasteners and torque, dimensional drawings and schematics, ropes, slings, rigging, load balancing, wiring and cabling, terminating wiring and cabling, and inspection of wiring and cabling. Each section provides practical application of the material covered.

**TRDS202 Electrical Fundamentals** | *Prerequisite: TRDS201; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

This course covers fundamental electrical topics for the trades including current, voltage, resistance, power, Ohm's law, electrical test equipment, resistive circuits, reactive circuits, transformers, and calculations related to electrical circuits, electrical safety, and practical application for the trades.

**WTT119 Power Industry Fundamentals** | *Prerequisite: TRDS202; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

This course sets the stage for entering the electrical energy production and distribution field. It describes the many ways in which electricity can be produced, from burning fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas, to harnessing nuclear energy, and using renewable energy sources such as wind, geothermal, and solar energy.

**WTT121 Wind Turbine Science** | *Prerequisite: TRDS202; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

Discusses the basics of power generation and the generators used in wind turbines. Reviews how power is distributed and controlled during various modes of wind turbine operation. Simple one-line diagrams are also covered. Presents comprehensive coverage of wind turbine fasteners and their required characteristics. Covers torque theory, torquing, tensioning, and hydraulic torquing equipment. Discusses bearing materials and designations. Explores basic lubrication theory and related equipment. Includes the different applications and types of lubricants used in the wind turbine environment. Covers all aspects of common hydraulic systems, including fluids, system components, and pumps. Presents the principles of hydraulic system operation and the related components.

**WTT123 Wind Industry** | *Prerequisite: TRDS202; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

Introduces the fundamentals of generating electrical power from wind energy. A brief history of wind energy is included as well as wind science, the interception of wind energy through a rotor, and an identification of major wind turbine generator components. Introduces safety concerns of working inside the wind turbine and in the wind farm environment. Expands on earlier safety training and provides coverage of electrical arc flash safety.

Includes aspects of climbing wind turbine lattice towers and tubular towers. Discusses proper climbing equipment and equipment inspection, environmental hazards, proper climbing techniques, and common wind turbine safe climbing guidelines.

**WTT127 Wind Power Systems** | *Prerequisite: TRDS202; 7.5 Quarter Credits; 80 didactic/40 lab/30 outside prep hours*

Introduces the development of both single- and three-phase alternating current. Analyzes the relationship of AC phases and introduces key components used to refine AC power. Discusses the operation of transformers and introduces advanced AC concepts such as reactive power and the power factor. Explains the necessity of overcurrent protection and the way it is applied in the wind turbine environment. Explores the operation of common circuit breakers and the differences in various fuse types. Overcurrent device terminology is presented, along with a review of the information found on such devices.

Provides coverage of switching devices related to the power distribution and control of wind turbines. Mechanical and solid-state relay types are presented, as well as typical wind turbine control wiring diagrams. Explains various time-delay schemes, and how they can be applied. Introduces the types of equipment and methods used in fiber-optic cable installation.

**WTT133 Wind Turbine Technician Practicum** | *Prerequisites: TRDS100, TRDS201, TRDS202, WTT119, WTT121, WTT123; WTT127; 7.0 Quarter Credits; 40 didactic/80 lab/30 outside prep hours. Students must be at a 2.0 CGPA to be eligible to attend.*

***Please note this course includes a 10 consecutive day, with travel, residential component in Kansas City, Missouri.***

At the core of this intensive and challenging capstone course is an 80-hour boot camp in Kansas City, Missouri. This time provides a review of program learning objectives, the opportunity to learn and practice program competencies, and learn industry-recognized certifications including the GWO Basic Safety Training and GWO Basic Technical Training.

Arrangements are provided for air travel to Kansas City, Missouri, lodging, program-related local transportation, and meals during the day. These costs are included in program tuition. Discretionary incidental expenses for evening meals, snacks or any other personal needs are the responsibility of the student.

# Wind Energy Technology

Associate of Occupational Studies Degree

Online delivery - 70 weeks, 96 Quarter Credit Hours

CIP 15.0403

This occupational associate degree program requires students to first complete the Wind Turbine Technology certificate program. This associate degree is designed to allow graduates to advance their careers by providing them with a more in-depth understanding of wind turbines, wind site management, and the information technology used in the wind industry along with the essential communication and managerial skills to assume supervisory positions in their field.

Graduates are prepared for entry-level positions including, but not limited to, Wind Site Supervisor, Wind Site Manager, Wind Energy Supervisor, Wind Energy Manager, Wind Turbine Installation Supervisor, and Wind Turbine Supervisor.

## Associate Program Objectives:

1. Identify the elements that are necessary to be successful as a supervisor
2. Define leadership and describe the difference between a leader and a supervisor
3. List actions a supervisor can take to improve team performance
4. Explain the purpose and importance of technical communication
5. Describe the steps to achieve clarity and conciseness in technical writing
6. Create properly formatted memos, letters, email, instructions, and user manuals
7. Define the importance of managerial communication in the workplace
8. Discuss the considerations for technology use in workplace communications
9. Discuss the importance of nonverbal communication and interactive listening
10. Discuss the advantages, challenges and potential for wind energy
11. Explain wind turbine technologies
12. Discuss issues related to the aerodynamics of vertical axis wind turbines
13. Discuss the design elements of vertical axis wind turbines
14. Explain wind site layout, spacing, and general arrangement
15. Explain the processes and procedures of life-cycle assessment
16. Discuss the future of wind energy and wind site management
17. Describe basic accounting practices of wind site management

18. Create charts, tables, and pivot tables in Excel
19. Describe the fundamental elements of a SCADA system
20. Describe network solutions for the wind industry

#### Major Equipment List

Multimeters, 24-volt DC motors, 120 AC motor, contactors, relays, switches, electrical and hydraulic trainers, Shaft Hog-generator alignment, HYTROC-bolting, wires, 60 ft. outdoor tower (Monopole), indoor climbing lab, ladders with safety climb system, climbing and safety equipment including full body tower harnesses, ropes and cables, lanyards, hard hats, safety glasses; rescue kits, personal evacuation kits, trauma and first aid kits

#### Associate Courses Only – Additional Courses are included with the Wind Turbine Technician Program

Course Code	Course Title	Didactic	Lab	Extern	Instructional Hours	Outside Prep	Total Clock + Outside Hours	Quarter Credit Hours
GE201A	<i>Applied Supervision and Management</i>	90	0	0	90	0	90	6.0
GE202A	<i>Applied Technical Writing</i>	90	0	0	90	0	90	6.0
GE203A	<i>Applied Communication Skills</i>	90	0	0	90	0	90	6.0
WTD201	<i>Wind Turbine Theory and Operation</i>	90	0	0	90	0	90	6.0
WTD202	<i>Wind Site Management</i>	90	0	0	90	0	90	6.0
WTD203	<i>Information Technology for the Wind Industry</i>	90	0	0	90	0	90	6.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>540</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>36.0</b>

#### Course Descriptions – Associate Level

##### **GE201A Applied Supervision and Management** | *Prerequisite: WTT133; 6.0 Quarter Credits; 90 didactic*

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the management process and the skills necessary to become an effective supervisor. Key concepts include the core competencies and challenges of supervision, organizational skills, problem solving and decision making, motivating employees, becoming an effective leader, effective communication, leading teams, performance appraisals, workplace safety, and conflict management.

**GE202A Applied Technical Writing** | *Prerequisite: WTT133; 6.0 Quarter Credits; 90 didactic*

This course provides an overview of the importance, purpose, and application of technical writing. Topics include the software tools that assist in technical writing, communication channels, clarity and conciseness in technical writing; the importance of document design, proper use of writing elements, creating routine correspondence, argument and persuasion; creating technical descriptions, process analysis, instructions, and user manuals.

**GE203A Applied Communication Skills** | *Prerequisite: WTT133; 6.0 Quarter Credits; 90 didactic*

This course provides an overview of the essential communication strategies for managers and supervisors. Topics include communication in contemporary organizations, the communication process, effective group communication, creating and delivering presentations, listening skills for supervisors and managers, nonverbal communication, cultural considerations in communication, negation, and interviewing.

**WTD201 Wind Turbine Theory and Operation** | *Prerequisite: WTT133; 6.0 Quarter Credits; 90 didactic*

This course provides an in-depth study of the theory and operation of wind turbines. Topics include the advantages, challenges, and potential of the wind industry; wind physics, wind power capture, wind assessment; wind turbine technologies; aerodynamics and design of wind turbines, and wind turbine components and operation.

**WTD202 Wind Site Management** | *Prerequisite: WTT133; 6.0 Quarter Credits; 90 didactic*

This course provides an overview of the operation of a wind site. Topics include the engineering aspects of a wind site, reliability issues, life-cycle assessment and procedures, storing wind energy, environmental issues related to wind sites; wind site landscapes, growth trends and the future of wind sites; and the financial modeling and performance of wind sites.

**WTD203 Information Technology for the Wind Industry** | *Prerequisite: WTT133; 6.0 Quarter Credits; 90 didactic*

This course provides practical training for the wind industry in the key information technology areas of Microsoft Excel, SCADA, and networking fundamentals. Topics include creating Microsoft Excel worksheets, formatting, formulas and functions, tables, charts, and pivot tables; SCADA systems fundamentals, types, and components; networking topology and protocols, network security, and network solutions for the wind industry.

## Admissions

### Admissions Requirements

PCI believes in equal opportunity and welcomes all qualified candidates. PCI neither denies admission nor discriminates against students enrolled at the school on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, genetic information, age, disability, or national origin. Applicants must be 18 years of age by the date they graduate from PCI. Exceptions to this age limit will be made only with the written consent of the student's parents and/or legal guardian.

All applicants must have a High School Diploma or High School Equivalency such as HiSET, GED, or state recognized home school diploma/transcript by the state the diploma/transcript was awarded. High school diplomas must be standard. Special diplomas, certificates of completion, or any other diplomas that do not meet regular high school requirements will not be accepted. Proof of a conferred associates or bachelor's degree will also meet our admissions requirement. PCI recognizes that in rare instances students may not be able to provide documentation required by our school's admissions criteria due to issues beyond their control (e.g., loss of records due to natural disasters or school closure). In these rare cases, a student may be accepted into the institution by providing the following:

- Student must sign an attestation statement declaring that he or she in fact obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent and satisfactory reason(s) why documentation of the earned credential cannot be provided in the case of natural disaster or closure of school.
- Provided test scores of an acceptable test a student may have taken in preparation for college entry such as ACT or the SAT. An acceptable score for acceptance into the institution is composite score of 17 for ACT and 900 for SAT.

### Procedures

The following items must be completed at the time of registration:

- Application for Admission
- Proof of a High School Diploma or unofficial transcript (DD214 is not an acceptable proof of High School graduation).
- Minimum passing score of 75 points on the Admissions Entrance Exam
- Minimum passing score of 15 points on the Online Readiness Assessment
- Parent or guardian (if applicant is under 18 years of age), must also sign enrollment Agreement.
- Applicants should note that color is a method used for coding electronic components; consequently, color-blind or color-impaired individuals may have difficulty or be unable to succeed in select courses.
- Pinnacle Career Institute does not require any immunizations for admission into the institution and requires that no proof of immunizations be provided.

## Entrance Exam

Applicants must achieve a passing score on both the Online Readiness Assessment and Entrance Exam as an admissions requirement. 75 points is the minimum passing score on the Admissions Entrance Exam, 15 is the minimum passing score on the Online Readiness Assessment. If a student does not pass either assessment or exam on their first attempt, they may immediately retake an alternative version of the assessment or exam. Each version is evaluated using the same grading scale but consists of different questions.

Should a student fail to pass the exam or assessment on their second attempt, they are permitted a third attempt, which can be taken 30 days after the submission of the second attempt.

Should a student fail to pass on their third attempt, following attempts are permitted on a case-by-case basis subsequent to each failed attempt. Each attempt will contain a different version of material and the date/score of each submission is logged in our student information system, Orbund, by our Registrar.

## Conditional Acceptance, Financial Aid, and Enrollment

All first-time entering students meeting the admissions requirements of Pinnacle Career Institute will be conditionally accepted for an initial period of 15 days for the first course. To be officially accepted into the school, the following requirements must be met:

- First-time students must post an attendance-qualifying assignment the first academic week of the class.
- First-time students must have a 70% or better in TRDS100 and a completed funding plan by day 15 of the course.

First-time students who do not meet the requirements to be accepted into the school will be considered Conditional Acceptance Denied and will incur no charges. Any monies paid by the student for the program will be returned in full to the original payment source within 30 days of school determination or end of course.

All students intending to utilize federal financial aid (Title IV funds) must complete and submit their FAFSA by 11:59pm CST on Friday, Day 5 of TRDS100. Students who do not intend to apply for federal financial aid (e.g., self-paying students, VA-funded students, or those funded through third-party scholarships or employer-sponsored programs) are exempt from this requirement.

Additionally, students with defaulted federal student loans must resolve their default status and bring their loans into good standing before they can begin the program. To clear this requirement, we must either receive a clearance letter from the U.S. Department of Education or see updated loan statuses in the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). If a student is looking to use another payment method other than Title IV funds, then these students will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

This requirement will be communicated to students during the admissions process, included in Pinnacle Career Institute's Catalog, and outlined in the enrollment agreement. Failure to meet this requirement by the specified deadline may result in denial of enrollment during or before the Conditional Acceptance Period. This policy is designed to help students utilizing federal financial aid funds comply with our Conditional Acceptance policy.



## Prospective Student and Staff Communication During the Enrollment Process

Pinnacle Career Institute is committed to maintaining a respectful and professional environment throughout the enrollment process. All communication between students and staff must remain appropriate and professional at all times.

Inappropriate, suggestive, or otherwise unprofessional communication is strictly prohibited, as it undermines the integrity of the student-staff relationship.

Violations of this standard may result in disqualification from the admissions process. All such cases will be reviewed, with final decisions made at the discretion of the Campus President.

## Veterans

PCI is proud to welcome our active military members, veterans, spouses, and immediate family members to enroll. Our programs are eligible and approved for the use of your Military Educational Benefits. Our financial aid office is privileged to work with our veterans and their family members to ensure they receive all benefits they are qualified for while attending PCI. Our VA Certifying Official is Sharon Baldwin, [sbaldwin@pcitraining.edu](mailto:sbaldwin@pcitraining.edu), and you may contact her office if you have any questions concerning your benefits.

## Voluntary Education Partnership MOU

Pinnacle Career Institute participates in the Department of Defense (DoD) Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DoD Office and educational institutions. PCI has signed an MOU conveying the commitments and agreements between educational institutions and the DoD to allow funds to be received from a service's Tuition Assistance (TA) program. Pinnacle Career Institute proudly participates in Federal military and veterans' educational benefits programs, including benefits provided by the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Tuition Assistance Program. We join in the goal of the DOD's Tuition Assistance program to provide our service members, veterans, spouses, and other family members the opportunity to pursue a high-quality education and gain the skills and training they need to fill the jobs of tomorrow.

PCI follows the Principles of Excellence for Education Institutions Serving Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Other Family Members. These principles include:

- Provide meaningful information to service members, Veterans, spouses, and other family members about the financial cost and quality to assist those prospective students in making choices about how to use their Federal educational benefits. This includes:
  - Clear understanding of the total cost of the program, including tuition and fees
  - The amount of that cost that will be covered by Federal educational benefits
  - The type and amount of financial aid they may qualify for
  - Their estimated student loan debt upon graduation
  - Information about student outcomes
- To not use abusive and deceptive recruiting practices that target the recipients of Federal military and Veterans

educational benefits

- Ensure that high quality academic and student support services are provided to active-duty service members, reservists, members of the National Guard, Veterans, and military families
- Allow service members and reservists to be readmitted to a program if they are temporarily unable to attend class or have to suspend the student due to service requirements. Also, take additional steps to accommodate short absences due to service obligations, provided that satisfactory academic progress is being made by the service members and reservists prior to suspending their students
- Agree to an institutional refund policy that is aligned with the refund of unearned student aid rules applicable to Federal student aid provided through the Department of Education and implementing the Return to Title IV requirements
- Provide educational plans that detail how they will fulfill all requirements necessary to graduate and the expected timeline of completion
- PCI provides a point of contact for academic and financial advising (including access to disability counseling) to assist service member and Veteran students and their families with the successful completion of their program and with their job search
- Applicants using Military Tuition Assistance must meet with their Educational Services Officer (ESO) prior to enrolling to get specific branch approval.

## Military Duty

On occasion, a student service member receives activation or deployment orders when enrolled in a term. If those orders will affect his or her ability to attend class, a number of options are available. Length of the duty will dictate which option is best for the student. The student should contact the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways well before the duty period to review those options and establish a plan.

## Additional Military Information

PCI has a scholarship in place for students who are using Tuition Assistance, please refer to the scholarship section of the catalog to review if you are eligible for this scholarship.

Any aid or scholarships (other than Title IV) will reduce the cost of tuition prior to benefits calculation for the student if using Chapter 33 benefits. Please discuss with your certifying official if you have any questions concerning this.

Specific refund policies for VA are located in the Tuition and Refund Section of the catalog. Please refer to this section and review with your certifying official. PCI's certifying official is Sharon Baldwin; you can contact Sharon at [sbaldwin@pcitraining.edu](mailto:sbaldwin@pcitraining.edu).

## VA Prior Credit Requirement

A student with prior credit from another school(s) is required to provide a copy of their transcript or grades to PCI for evaluation of transfer of credit. This is mandatory and must be completed prior to PCI certifying the enrollment for benefits. Please provide transcripts to your FA coordinator and they will submit for evaluation.

## Enrollment Agreement and Binding Arbitration

As a condition of enrollment, Pinnacle Career Institute requires each student to sign an enrollment agreement containing the following binding arbitration provision:

**ARBITRATION:** As a condition of enrollment, the Student and the School agree to resolve through binding and mandatory arbitration any dispute, claim, controversy, cause of action, lawsuit, or proceeding (including, but not limited to, any statutory, tort, contract or equity claim) between the Student and the School or any current or former employee(s) of the School (collectively, the “Parties”) that arises, arose, or has arisen out of, or is or was in any way related to, this Enrollment Agreement, the subject matter of this Enrollment Agreement, or the Student’s enrollment, attendance, or educational experience at the School (individually and collectively, a “Dispute”). The Parties are encouraged to make an initial attempt, in good faith, to resolve the Dispute through the School’s student complaint process or other informal means. If the Dispute is not resolved pursuant to the School’s student complaint process or other informal means, then the Dispute will be resolved by binding arbitration between the Parties.

1. **Explanation of Arbitration.** Arbitration is the referral of a Dispute to an impartial person (an arbitrator) for a final and binding determination of the Dispute. In agreeing to binding and mandatory arbitration, the Parties voluntarily give up certain rights, including the right to pursue a Dispute in court, the right to a trial by a judge or jury, rights to appeal, and other rights that may be available in a court, such as broader discovery rights. As provided by this arbitration provision, the Parties also give up the right to bring or participate in any class action, collective action, private attorney general action, or any other type of action or proceeding in which anyone acts or proposes to act in a representative capacity on behalf of others. If you have any questions about this arbitration provision or the arbitration process, please contact the Campus President.
2. **Arbitration Procedures.**
  - (a) The arbitration will be administered by United States Arbitration & Mediation (“USA&M”) or, in the event, USA&M declines or is unable to administer the arbitration, by an arbitration forum or arbitrator that the Parties mutually agreed upon. If, after making a reasonable effort, the Parties are unable to agree upon an arbitration forum or arbitrator, a court having proper jurisdiction will appoint an arbitration forum or arbitrator. The arbitration will be conducted in accordance with USA&M’s Consolidated Arbitration Rules, or the appropriate rules of any alternative arbitration forum selected by the Parties or appointed by a court, except as modified by this arbitration provision. USA&M’s Consolidated Arbitration Rules and other information regarding the USA&M’s arbitration procedures are available from USA&M, which can be contacted by mail at 500 North Broadway, Suite 1800, St. Louis, Missouri 63102, by telephone at 314-231-4642, or through its website at [www.usam.com](http://www.usam.com).
  - (b) Any Dispute shall be heard by a single arbitrator who is an attorney. As a condition of appointment, the arbitrator shall follow all applicable substantive laws (except as otherwise provided in this arbitration provision), shall agree to the terms of this arbitration provision, and shall lack authority not to enforce the terms of this arbitration provision. The arbitrator shall have the exclusive authority to determine and adjudicate any issue relating to the existence,

formation, validity, enforceability, applicability, or interpretation of this Enrollment Agreement and this arbitration provision, provided, however, that a court shall have exclusive authority to enforce the Class Action Prohibition. The arbitrator's decision shall be accompanied by a reasoned opinion from which there shall be no appeal.

- (c) The place of arbitration shall be in Kansas City, Missouri. Judgment on the arbitral award may be entered exclusively in Kansas City, Missouri. Missouri law shall apply.
- (d) The Parties shall each bear their own attorney's fees, costs, and expenses, except that the costs of arbitration, as set forth in the Special Consumer Addendum to USA&M's Consolidated Arbitration Rules, shall be determined by the Special Consumer Addendum.
- (e) This arbitration provision governs if there is a conflict with the rules of the arbitral forum.

- 3. **Class Action Prohibition.** The scope of the arbitration shall be limited to the Dispute between the Parties. The Parties expressly waive all rights to bring any class action, collective action, private attorney general action, or any other type of action or proceeding in which anyone acts or proposes to act in a representative capacity on behalf of others. The arbitrator shall have no authority or jurisdiction to compel, hear, or permit any class action, collective action, private attorney general action, or any other type of action or proceeding in which anyone acts or proposes to act in a representative capacity on behalf of others. By way of illustration and not limitation, neither the Student nor the School can bring a class action against each other or participate in a class action against the other, whether as a named class representative or an absent or putative class member.
- 4. **Federal Arbitration Act.** The parties agree that this Arbitration Agreement involves interstate commerce and that the enforceability of this Arbitration Agreement shall be governed, both procedurally and substantively, by the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. §§ 1-9.
- 5. **Severability.** If the Class Action Prohibition is found to be illegal or unenforceable as to all or some parts of a Dispute, then those parts will not be arbitrated but will be resolved in court, with the balance of the Dispute resolved through arbitration. If any other part of this arbitration provision is found to be illegal or unenforceable, then that part will be severed; however, the remaining parts shall still apply and shall be interpreted to as nearly as possible achieve the original intent of this arbitration provision.
- 6. **Small Claims Lawsuits Permitted.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, this arbitration provision does not prevent the Parties from filing a lawsuit in any small claims court of competent jurisdiction.
- 7. **Inapplicability to Borrower Defense to Repayment Applications to U.S. Department of Education.** The School cannot require the Student to participate in arbitration or any internal dispute resolution process offered by the School prior to filing a borrower defense to repayment application with the U.S. Department of Education pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 685.206(e); the School cannot, in any way, require the Student to limit, relinquish, or waive his or her ability to pursue filing a borrower defense claim, pursuant to § 685.206(e) at any time; and any arbitration required by this pre-dispute arbitration agreement tolls the limitations period for filing a borrower defense to repayment application pursuant to § 685.206(e)(6)(ii).

## School Policies

Students are expected to be familiar with the information presented in this school catalog, in any supplements, and addenda to the catalog, and with all school policies. By enrolling at Pinnacle Career Institute, students agree to accept and abide by the terms stated in this catalog and all school policies.

Pinnacle Career Institute agrees to provide instruction in the student’s program as outlined in the current catalog to the best of the school’s ability. Class offerings and class starts may change dependent on the size of class enrollment or other outside variables. If a change is made in the program of a student, the student will receive written notification. Any new student to a program, upon receiving notification, may cancel their enrollment within five (5) business days without penalty.

### Readmission into the Institution

Any student who re-enters the institution after a withdrawal or graduation will be considered to have matriculated on the first day of attendance and tuition will be charged. A student who was withdrawn must complete a student re-entry application, receive approval, and complete the enrollment process for re-entry.

### Distance Education

Pinnacle Career Institute has been a member of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity (NC-SARA) Agreement since 2015. The US Department of Education recognizes Pinnacle Career Institute’s authorization to enroll students in NC-SARA participating states. Students enrolled in distance education (online) programs who determine to move to another state should contact the school immediately to confirm NC-SARA participation of that state.

### LMS

Enrollment in online programs requires access to a computer or tablet with internet access and web browser capabilities. Classes are accessed through our Learning Management System, Canvas, and all course work is submitted through the LMS. This includes activities, quizzes, discussions, and interaction between teachers and students. Students need to ensure that they have access to the internet to be able to access the LMS. Below is guidance concerning the technology needs of the student to successfully complete online course work:

**Recommended Browsers:**        Google Chrome

It is highly recommended that the student have administrative rights to the computer used for online coursework. If the student must use a computer over which he/she does not have administrative rights, such as a library computer or a workplace computer, he/she may experience difficulties with needed functions, such as installing plug-ins.

**Recommended Plug-ins:**

Real Player

Apple QuickTime Player Adobe PDF Viewer

**Recommended Software:**

Office 365 or Microsoft Office Suite

Additional plug-ins and/or downloads may be required by specific courses. The courses will include information for obtaining and installing the appropriate plug-ins or software.

### **Email Account**

A valid email address, checked daily, is required. **Students are encouraged to set up a professional email address for use when communicating with staff and faculty.** In addition, this email address will be used by Career Services to assist the student in building a network of contacts for job placement opportunities at the end of the program. If the student changes their email address, they are required to supply the correct address to the Registrar's office so that it can be updated in the student's record and the learning management system.

### **Academic Accommodations**

Academic accommodations are defined as all adjustments, alterations, and/or modifications that allow a student with a documented disability or impairment to have equal access to the institution's programs and activities.

### **Disability Services**

A student is responsible for informing the school that they have a disability and need academic adjustment(s) or accommodation(s). Pinnacle Career Institute is not required to identify a student as having a disability or to assess their needs.

Students interested in receiving academic accommodations and/or support services must contact the school's ADA Specialist/Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways. To receive academic accommodations, students must first provide the school's ADA Specialist/Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways with appropriate documentation of their disability. A request can be made at any time during the students' academic tenure; however, proper protocol must be followed.

Pinnacle Career Institute complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. Any student who needs accommodations should inform their admissions coordinator when enrolling, their instructor or Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways at the beginning of the class that he/she will be requesting accommodations for. They will then be referred to contact the ADA Specialist/Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways to schedule an appointment to discuss and request accommodation services. If academic accommodations are approved, this will be documented and sent to the instructor.

Pinnacle Career Institute is not required to provide any testing or evaluation for documentation of learning or other disabilities and does not do so. The cost for documentation is borne by the student. The school's ADA Specialist/Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways reserves the right to request additional information should the documentation provided be insufficient in diagnosing and describing the disability or in providing enough information to determine academic accommodations. Furthermore, the school is not responsible for ensuring academic accommodations for students who identify themselves only to faculty and have not identified themselves directly through the ADA Specialist/Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways.

### **Required Documentation to Utilize Disability Services**

Documentation must be current (within the last 3 years) and must be submitted by a licensed medical professional. This documentation must be a comprehensive assessment including recommendations and rationale for accommodations as well as recommendations. Guidelines for providing documentation are listed below.

Documentation on file for the student **must**:

- Clearly state the diagnosed disability or disabilities.
- Describe the functional limitations resulting from the disability or disabilities.
- Be current — i.e., completed within the last 3 years for learning, last 6 months for psychiatric disabilities, or last 3 years for ADHD and all other disabilities (**NOTE:** this requirement does not apply to physical or sensory disabilities of a permanent or unchanging nature).
- Describe the specific accommodations requested.
- Adequately support each of the requested accommodation(s).
- Be typed or printed on official letterhead.

The school's ADA Specialist/Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways reserves the right to request additional information should the documentation provided be insufficient in diagnosing and describing the disability or in providing enough information to determine academic accommodations. If there is an additional cost for this documentation, Pinnacle Career Institute may be responsible for these additional costs.

### **Procedure for Requesting Academic Accommodations**

After providing the ADA Specialist/Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways with appropriate documentation and need for academic accommodations, documentation will be reviewed on an individual, case-by-case basis. Reasonable accommodations are individually determined and will be based on the functional impact of the condition and its likely interaction with the environment (course assignments, program requirements, physical design, etc.). As such, accommodation recommendations may vary from individual to individual with the "same" disability.

To determine an appropriate academic accommodation, the school will review the student's request in light of the essential requirements for the relevant program. The school is not required to lower or waive essential requirements. If the student has requested a specific academic adjustment, the school may offer that academic adjustment, or it may offer an effective alternative.

Accommodations are not retroactive. Accommodations will take effect when the student has completed the accommodations request process, the ADA Specialist/Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways has approved the accommodations, and instructors have received the academic accommodation plan. Every effort will be made by Pinnacle Career Institute staff to ensure the students clearly understand their rights and responsibilities. PCI staff will ensure a smooth and timely transition through this process. However, students are encouraged to take an active role in informing faculty of approved accommodations, collaborating with them to ensure effective arrangements.

An academic accommodation plan applies only for the period of time in which the student is enrolled in the institution. Students who are re-entering the institution after withdrawal or transferring programs are required to resubmit their request to the ADA Specialist/Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways following the same policies and procedures for requesting academic accommodations.

### **Disability Complaint/Appeals Procedures**

Students who feel that they have been adversely affected by accommodation decisions made by the institution can file a complaint or appeal to the Campus President. Complaints or appeals filed by disabled students can include (but are not limited to) matters such as:

1. Reasonable academic accommodations or services requested which have been denied, terminated, suspended, or modified in such a manner as to limit the student's access to the educational program or services of the institution that are required by the student to meet his/her educational goal;
2. Failure of the institution to provide a required academic accommodation or service in a reasonable time frame once the student has provided the necessary documentation to verify his/her disability; or
3. Actions, decisions, or procedures that the student feels have negatively affected his/her student status, privileges, or access to the educational programs or services of the college because of the student's disability status.

**The Campus President will be in contact with the student within five (5) working days of the student filing a complaint or appeal.**

### **New Student Orientation**

All new students are required to participate in New Student Orientation prior to gaining access to the Week 1 coursework of their first class. During this Orientation, students will be informed on the rules and regulations of the institution, familiarized with our online learning portal, and gain an in-depth knowledge on best practices in the online classroom. Students will participate in Orientation through our online learning management system (LMS), Canvas. Orientation is divided into two sections: 'Welcome to PCI Orientation' and 'Getting Started.'

### **Credit Assessment**

#### **Transfer and Award of Academic Credit**

Academic credits with a grade of "C" or better earned at other accredited institutions may be transferred to PCI based on the comparability of the nature, content, and level of credit earned to that offered by PCI. No more than 50% of the



required program quarter credits hours may be transferred and all credits must have been earned within the past five (5) years. Credits will be applied as transfer credit and will be calculated into the student's Quantitative Satisfactory Academic Progress. Students wishing to obtain transfer of credit should have an official transcript and catalog or course descriptions sent by the accredited institution to PCI. There is no legally enforceable right for a student to require PCI to accept a transfer of credit from another educational institution. **Submissions should be made within thirty (30) days from the date of enrollment at PCI.**

Students planning to use VA benefits and have prior credits from another institution are required to provide transcripts for evaluation for transfer and award of academic credits, this is mandatory to be certified for VA benefits.

**Please note:** PCI cannot guarantee the transferability of credits to other institutions.

### PCI Students Transfer and Award of Academic Credits

For current students changing programs, credit will be applied by associating grades into the new enrollment and those grades will be calculated into the student's CGPA. Grades and credits that are not part of the transfer program are not considered. For students who are re-entering into a new program, the same policy applies. For students re-entering into the same program, credit will be applied by associating grades into the new enrollment. **All credits must have been earned within the past five (5) years.** These credits will be counted towards hours attempted for the course completion percentage.

For students who have graduated from PCI in a certificate program that are entering into an applicable Associate Degree program, the 5-year time limit of transfer of credits will be waived.

### Foreign Credit Evaluation

Your High School document or other foreign educational credentials must be evaluated by a National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) Member or Association of International Credential Evaluators, Inc. (AICE) prior to starting with Pinnacle Career Institute. For a full listing of evaluators, visit the websites below:

NACES – <https://www.naces.org>

AICE – <https://aice-eval.org>

Apply for the “Basic Statement of Comparability” if you have graduated from a secondary school in your home country. Apply for “Course by Course” if you have attended a college or university in your home country and are seeking transfer credit. The cost of the evaluation is the responsibility of the student applicant.

### Credit by Examination

Some students may qualify for credit by examination for previous training or education gained elsewhere. This training and education must be documented at the time of application by a diploma, certificate, transcript or other correspondence before arrangements can be made. In some instances, students may have gained the commensurate knowledge in a work setting. In such a case, they must document the past work, length of time at that job and the work skills that they feel have prepared them to adequately pass such an examination.

The application to complete a course through credit by examination should be made **within thirty (30) days from the date of enrollment at PCI and can be obtained from the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways**. Students will be charged a non-refundable fee of \$25.00 per credit hour for the course they are attempting to receive credit through the credit by examination process.

The Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways will make arrangements to administer a comprehensive examination over the course content. This may consist of both written and performance examinations. A minimum grade of 80% is required in order for credit to be awarded.

Students are allowed only one opportunity to test out of a course. Should they fail to pass the comprehensive examination, they must then successfully complete the full course in order to receive credit. There will be no indication of the failure on the student's transcript.

Credit by Exam will be applied to the student's program, and will be added to the student's transcript and counted toward graduation requirements. Credits earned through Credit by Exam and they will not be calculated in the qualitative Satisfactory Academic Progress. Refer to the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy for more information.

Academic credit by examination will not be awarded for more than two classes in any program.

### Prior Learning Assessment

Students may be able to fulfill some course credits with Prior Learning Assessment (PLA). PLA credits may apply to certificate course requirements at Pinnacle Career Institute, unless otherwise specified in policy.

To qualify for PLA credit review, prepare a PLA portfolio that includes documents demonstrating your prior learning experience. Appropriate documentation eligible for review includes:

- Institutional or corporate training courses
- Transcripts from non-accredited colleges, schools, and training facilities
- Professional certificates
- State and national licenses
- Training courses, workshops and seminars
- Documentable work experience to include resume and employer-issued job descriptions

Submit your PLA application and portfolio to the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways for **evaluation within 30 days from the date of enrollment at PCI**. Application of credits to a student's program may vary as a result of program requirements, credit deficiencies, and/or the current policies of Prior Learning Assessment or Pinnacle Career Institute.

### PLA Credit Costs

There is a one-time application fee of \$100, which must accompany the application and portfolio submission. After review, a fee of

\$25 per credit awarded must be received for credits to be applied. Financial aid will not be applied to these fees.

Application to the PLA process does not guarantee credits will be applied. Speak with your Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways about whether your experience can qualify for credit prior to application submission.

### American Council on Education (ACE) Credit

Credit may be awarded through the American Council on Education (ACE) for selected courses taken through the U.S. military and in business/industry. Credit recommendations are evaluated based on a review of each credit or examination successfully completed and the students chosen program of study.

PCI will consider skill-based courses taken while in the armed services for evaluation. To receive academic credit for military course work and schools, the student must submit a copy of his/her military training documents to PCI. These should include the DD214 or DD295, appropriate personnel file papers, and training certificates. Military transcripts are forwarded to the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways for evaluation.

## Student Finance

Prospective students and their parents are encouraged to visit with the PCI Financial Aid staff for detailed information about various aid programs available. The primary responsibility for meeting the costs of education rests with the individual student and their families. All financial aid is awarded on the basis of need, regardless of sex, age, race, color, religion, creed or national origin. Need is defined as the difference between the cost of education for one academic year and the amount a student and/or family can be reasonably expected to contribute to the cost of education for the same period.

### Financial Aid Eligibility- Title IV

In order to be eligible for Title IV financial aid, a student must:

- Be enrolled as a student in an eligible program of study on at least a half-time basis (with the exception of Pell and FSEOG);
- Have a high school diploma or the equivalent;
- Be a U.S. citizen or national, or an eligible non-citizen. Verification of eligible non-citizen status may be required;
- Have financial need (except for some loan programs) as determined by a need analysis system approved by the Department of Education;
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress;
- Provide required documentation for the verification process and determination of dependency status, if required;
- Have a valid Social Security Number;
- Not have borrowed in excess of the annual aggregate loan limits or Pell life-time eligibility for the Title IV financial aid programs;
- Complete entrance counseling prior to receiving any Title IV funds, and exit counseling upon completion of program of study, or withdrawal from institution.

## Pinnacle Career Institute Rights and Responsibilities of Financial Aid Recipients

### Student Rights

Students have a right to know:

- What financial assistance is available, including federal, state and institutional aid.
- The deadlines for submitting applications.
- What criteria are used to award the various financial aid programs.
- How financial need is determined, including what the Cost of Attendance is.
- What resources are considered in calculating financial need and how other resources affect their need.
- That the information they give to the Financial Aid Office will be treated confidentially.
- Policies for students who withdraw.
- An explanation of the various funds in the financial aid package, including which financial aid programs must be repaid and which do not.
- How they can have their financial need reviewed if their family circumstances have changed.
- How Satisfactory Academic Progress is determined and how it might affect their financial aid eligibility.

### Student Responsibilities

Students have the responsibility to:

- Complete a financial aid application on time and accurately. Students must reapply for all financial aid programs annually.
- Provide any additional information requested for the processing of their financial aid file (such as Federal tax returns, tax transcripts, verification worksheets, or other documentation).
- Read and understand all forms that they are asked to sign and keep a copy of such forms for their record.
- Use financial aid for educational expenses only.
- Make Satisfactory Academic Progress as determined by the Institution.
- Inform the Financial Aid Office of any additional financial aid they receive such as scholarships, outside grants, or other educational/tuition assistance.
- Repay all loans according to the terms of the promissory note. Students who default on a loan are not eligible for additional financial aid.
- Know and comply with any refund procedures.

**Students must inform PCI if their personal information changes such as:**

- Address, phone number and/or email
- Their financial circumstances change (loss of job, decrease in salary, etc.) so that the financial aid office can reevaluate their financial package

## Entrance and Exit Counseling

Entrance and Exit Counseling is required by the Department of Education for all students that have borrowed subsidized or unsubsidized loans. A student may complete this requirement online at:

- Entrance counseling: <https://studentaid.gov/entrance-counseling/>
- Exit counseling: <https://studentaid.gov/exit-counseling/>

## Default Prevention

PCI works with Wright International Student Services (WISS), [www.studentservicesint.org](http://www.studentservicesint.org), for Default Loan Management Prevention. If you have questions concerning your loans, or servicer of your loans you may contact the financial aid office at [fa@pcitraining.edu](mailto:fa@pcitraining.edu), or 816-608-5748.

## Application Process

To apply for financial aid, a student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The application must be completed carefully and accurately as it is the basis of determining the student's eligibility. Our student financial aid office is available to assist students in the completion of this form and to answer any questions.

The FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for all types of financial aid programs. Once processed, the application will produce a Student Aid Index (SAI), a number which determines eligibility. Financial aid from federal programs is not guaranteed from one year to the next; therefore, it is necessary for each student to reapply every year while continuing their program of study.

## Need and Cost of Attendance

Once the FAFSA is completed, the financial information will be used in a formula established by the US Congress that calculates the SAI, need, and helps determine eligibility. When combined with other aid and resources, a student's aid package may not exceed the cost of attendance.

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students must meet the standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) in order to remain eligible to continue receiving federal financial aid as well as to remain eligible to continue as a regular student of the institution.

For purposes of continuing eligibility for federal financial aid, SAP is determined by applying the CGPA requirements, maximum completion time restrictions, warning provisions, suspension and dismissal procedures, and appeals procedures as outlined in the Academic information section of the catalog.

Students on Financial Aid Warning are considered to be maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress and are eligible to continue receiving federal financial aid. Students who have been academically withdrawn are no longer considered active students and are ineligible for financial aid. Reinstatement of financial aid eligibility will occur only after re-admittance through the appeal process, being placed on financial aid probation, and maintaining SAP.

## Grants and Loans

### **Federal Pell Grant**

The Federal Pell grant is intended to allow eligible students financial assistance at the school or college of their choice. For eligible students, Pell Grants are the “floor” or base upon which all other aid is built. The amount a student may receive is determined by a standard U.S. Department of Education formula (SAI) which uses family size, income and resources, the student’s intensity level of enrollment, and how much of the student’s remaining education at the institution falls within the current federal award year (July 1 through June 30) to determine need. In order to be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, a student may not have previously received a bachelor’s degree from any other institution. Pell award amounts are determined annually by the U.S. Department of Education.

### **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)**

The FSEOG is a gift program for students who demonstrate exceptional financial need. The FSEOG program is federally funded for helping the financially needy undergraduate students meet the cost of postsecondary education. This program is administered by the college and FSEOG funds are awarded only to Federal Pell Grant recipients with the highest need after all other funding is applied to their tuition costs. The federal government allocates FSEOG funds to participating institutions and the limited funds pool requires PCI to award until depleted, so not all students may receive an award. The regulated annual maximum amount of FSEOG is \$4,000 and the minimum is \$100. Awards are determined by the financial aid office.

### **Federal Stafford Loan Programs**

#### **Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan Program**

These loans are available to eligible students enrolled at least half-time in an eligible institution and are based on the financial need demonstrated by each student. A student may borrow up to \$3,500 for the first academic year, and \$4,500 for the second academic year. The loan amounts will be prorated for academic years of less than thirty weeks. A student must repay his or her subsidized Federal Stafford loans based on the amount borrowed but no less than \$50 per month, beginning six months after graduation or termination of studies.

#### **Deferral of Repayment**

Repayment of a subsidized Federal Stafford Loan may be deferred for up to three years for any student:

- Who is seeking and is unable to find full-time employment;
- Who suffers economic hardship;
- Who returns to school and is enrolled at least half-time.

A student will be obligated for a 1.057% origination fee on each subsidized Federal Stafford Loan he or she receives.

### Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan Program

These loans are available to eligible students enrolled or accepted for enrollment on at least a half-time basis at an eligible institution and who do not show available need. This loan was created so that all students, regardless of income, would be able to obtain a Stafford Loan. The terms and conditions of the unsubsidized loan, deferments, and interest rates, are the same as the Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan shown above, with a few exceptions, such as loan limits. However, interest is charged from the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid in full.

### Federal Direct PLUS Loan Program

A Federal PLUS loan enables parents with good credit histories to borrow for each child who is enrolled at least half-time and is a dependent student.

PLUS loans enable parents to borrow the cost of attendance minus other aid. PLUS borrowing is limited to parents with favorable credit histories. For Federal Direct Plus loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2006, the interest rate will be fixed.

### Current Interest Rates

Interest Rates for Direct Loans First Disbursed Between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026		
Loan Type	Borrower Type	Loans first disbursed on or after 7/1/25 and before 7/1/26
Direct Subsidized Loans	Undergraduate	6.39%
Direct Unsubsidized	Undergraduate	6.39%
Direct Unsubsidized	Graduate or Professional	7.94%
Direct PLUS Loans	Parents and Graduate or Professional	8.94%

### Loan Repayment

For further information concerning how to repay your loans and repayment plan options please contact your financial aid coordinators or go to the Federal Student Aid website:

<https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/mobile/repayment/repaymentEstimator.action>

The repayment estimator will assist you in determining your repayment on your federal student loans:

<https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/mobile/repayment/repaymentEstimator.action>

## Cost of Attendance- Financial Aid

The cost of attendance reflects the amount of money a typical student is projected to need for school-related expenses during the academic year based on program. This expense is added to the cost of the tuition for the program to set the Cost of Attendance. Below is the budget for school related expenses for undergraduates at PCI.

### 2024-2025 Undergraduate Cost of Attendance

Tuition plus school-related expenses listed below:

#### Food and Housing per Academic Year (30 weeks – rounded to 8 months)

Dependent students living with parents	\$10,848
All others	\$14,424

#### Misc. Personal Expenses

Dependent students living with parents	\$3,648
All others	\$10,896

#### Transportation Expenses

Dependent students living with parents	\$8,272
All others	\$10,688

#### Average Loan Fees

Dependent student w/PLUS	\$18.00
Independent student	\$33.00

#### Estimated Total

Dependent student	\$22,786
Independent student	\$36,041

## Other Loan Options

PCI can provide students with information on non- federal based financing options. Since these loans are not guaranteed by the government, PCI cannot guarantee acceptance.



Pinnacle Career Institute provides payment options for those students who have additional needs to cover the cost of the program. Dependent on the needs of the student Pinnacle Career Institute provides different options. Please discuss with your financial aid coordinator if you would require any further information concerning these programs.

Payment Options Currently Being Offered by PCI are:

- Cash Payment Agreements
- On Time Payment Advantage – Retail Installment Contract
- Standard Payment Agreement – Retail Installment Contract

Each payment option has different requirements options. Please speak with the financial aid office to receive information and full disclosure concerning each loan option.

## Scholarships

Scholarship and grant opportunities exist for students attending our institution. Below is a brief outline of scholarship and grants available for Pinnacle Career Institute. For further information, the student should speak with his/her admissions coordinator or financial aid coordinator. Only one PCI grant or scholarship may be received by a student per program and may not be exchanged for cash or exceed the direct cost of tuition, fees, and institutional charges. The list of scholarship and grant opportunities listed below **do not have set deadlines associated with the application process**. All are considered open, rolling enrollments and may be applied for at any time throughout the year.

### PCI Adult Learner Scholarship

The PCI Adult Learner Scholarship is an award established to assist adult learners in their quest for higher education. The PCI ALS is a one-time grant provided to qualified adult students planning to attend Pinnacle Career Institute. An application may be submitted by speaking with a financial aid coordinator and filling out the scholarship form. The scholarship is awarded if all PCI criteria are met and if there is exceptional need of \$5,500 or higher after all other Title IV and outside sources have been awarded for the direct cost of tuition, fees, books, and supplies. Students must apply prior to the beginning of the program.

#### PCI Adult Learner Scholarship Student Qualifications

- Enroll in a PCI Program
- Meet all admissions requirements of the institution
- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or GED
- Not a previous recipient of any other PCI scholarships
- Only Applicable to Direct Cost of Tuition
- Award amounts are based on Program Enrollment and disbursed by term

- Wind Turbine Technician - \$2,000.00 Scholarship
- HVAC Technician - \$2,000.00 Scholarship
- Tower Technician - \$1500.00 Scholarship

Scholarship application and required documents are to be provided to the financial aid coordinator prior to the planned term of attendance. This scholarship must be applied for annually; if a student withdraws and re-enters, they must re-apply.

### PCI Tuition Assistance Military Scholarship

Pinnacle Career Institute recognizes and appreciates the service of our military men and women. The PCI Tuition Assistance Military Scholarship is specifically provided to assist eligible military personnel using his/her Tuition Assistance military benefits to cover all or some of the remaining direct cost of their academic program beyond direct costs covered by his/her Tuition Assistance military benefits.

In order to qualify for this scholarship a student must:

- Be an eligible military service man/woman with Tuition Assistance benefits;
- Complete and sign a scholarship application;
- Meet all admissions requirements;
- Maintain full-time enrollment in a certificate or degree program for which the student is receiving the scholarship beyond the add/drop week.
- Provide documentation from the Education Officer specifically confirming Tuition Assistance eligibility as well as the exact dollar amount per each PCI academic year;
- Must provide proof of military benefit by providing a Certificate of Eligibility;
- Must complete all necessary requirements for the military to process the military benefit monies. TA authorization vouchers must be provided by the student directly to the school;
- Must meet continued responsibility to certify each term with the Education Officer and forward the TA authorization voucher to PCI;
- Must meet responsibility to annually re-apply for TA benefit in October for each year enrolled in the program;
- Apply military benefit paid to the school for the direct cost of the educational program;
- Those without full TA may have an out-of-pocket expense;
- Scholarship monies cannot exceed program cost to create a credit or cash balance on the account card. If funding increases, the scholarship will be void;
- Must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress as defined in the PCI catalog.

Students are awarded a tuition scholarship of up to \$5,000 as follows: Direct education program costs less the military benefit amount and any other federal grants and/or scholarships not to exceed the direct cost of tuition, fees, books, and other institutional charges.

Scholarship application and required documents are to be provided to the financial aid coordinator prior to the planned term of attendance. This scholarship must be applied for annually and if a student withdraws and re-enters, they must re-apply.

### Legacy Scholarship

The Legacy Scholarship is a scholarship dedicated to assisting immediate family members of PCI students/ alumni. Immediate family members (spouses, children, siblings and parents) of current PCI students or graduates will receive a \$1000 Legacy Scholarship to be used toward tuition at PCI. The graduate family member must have graduated within 10 years of the immediate family member applying for this scholarship and application must be made prior to the beginning of the program.

## Tuition Fees and Policies

### Tuition and Fees

See catalog addendum for current tuition and fees. If missing, notify the institution. The institution may at any time, or from time to time at its discretion, increase the tuition of the program and current pricing will be reflected within the Tuition Catalog Addendum. The price of the program remains the same throughout the program for the student as reflected within their Enrollment Agreement. A student, who ceases attending Pinnacle Career Institute, officially or unofficially withdraws prior to completion of their program, and re-enters into the program will be charged the current tuition price at the time of their re-entry.

**Military Exception** - For student using Chapter 31 or 33 benefits, PCI will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the requirement that a covered individual borrow additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement of a payment to be provided by the Secretary under chapter 31 or 33 of this title.

In addition, military students withdrawn for deployment on active duty or for long term training, upon return, shall be reinstatement to their program at the rate of initial enrollment agreement. Military students that are being deployed should notify the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways as soon as possible and provide copies of the deployment papers or military orders.

## Cancellation Policy

The institution will refund advance payments of the student's tuition in accordance with the following policy for newly enrolled students to PCI.

**Rejection of Application by Institution:** All monies which were paid by the student to the institution shall be refunded in full if the student's Enrollment Agreement is rejected by the institution.

**Five (5) Business Days:** All monies, which were paid by the student to the institution, shall be refunded in full if the student requests cancellation of this agreement within five (5) business days of signing it.

**Prior to Commencement of First Course:** A student that cancels this agreement after five (5) business days of signing it, but prior to commencement of the first course, shall be entitled to a refund of all monies paid to the institution.

**Student's Right to Cancel:** Student shall have the right to cancel his or her Enrollment Agreement for any reason by submitting written notice of cancellation to an officer or director of the School. This notice may be personally delivered to the officer or director emailed or mailed. The date of cancellation shall be the date of receipt of the notice. The arbitration provision in the Enrollment Agreement shall survive and remain in effect notwithstanding any cancellation of the Enrollment Agreement.

## Course Repeats

A student who attempts and withdraws from a course, repeats a course to improve CGPA, or fails a course, must re-take the course to achieve a passing grade. Payment arrangements must be made through the financial aid office prior to repeating the course. Please see the tuition and fee schedule for more details.

## General Tuition Refund Policy

The intent of Pinnacle Career Institute's refund policy for withdrawal is to ensure a fair and equitable settlement between the institution and the student. This policy complies with all state, federal, and accreditation standards.

- Tuition is charged by an academic term, which consists of a ten-week period of instruction. For modular based curriculum, the term consists of two (2), 5-week classes of instruction.
- In the event of withdrawal by the student, tuition refunds will be made according the terms of the Enrollment Agreement as listed below.
- The date that a student officially withdraws from the institution or the date a student is officially terminated by the institution becomes the Date of School Determination (DOSD).
- An official withdrawal means the student has notified the school requesting to be withdrawn. The date the school receives the notification is the DOSD.
- An unofficial withdrawal means the student stopped attending for 14 consecutive days without official notification. If a student unofficially withdraws from school, the 14th calendar day after the student's last date of attendance becomes the DOSD and the last date of attendance is used to determine the amount of refund. The 14-day period does not include scheduled breaks of 5 days or more.

- For those who received Title IV funds please refer to the Title IV Tuition refund policy, which determines the amount of Title IV funds required to be refunded prior to the General Tuition Refund Policy.

### Tuition Refund Schedule

Based on Each Academic Term:	
1-14 calendar days from the first day of class	95%
15-28 calendar days from the first day of class	75%
29-41 calendar days from the first day of class	50%
On the 42nd day of class and beyond	None

If any monies are due to Federal Title IV funds, to the student, or other agency, the money will be returned within 45 days of the DOSD. If a student requests a voluntary withdrawal, Federal Title IV funds will be returned within 14 days of DOSD.

For students entering into Pinnacle Career Institute for their first class, please refer to the cancellation policy in regards to when tuition is charged.

Any credit balance remaining of less than \$1.00 will be written off. A balance due of less than \$15.00 will be reduced to zero by the school to close the student's account.

### Return to Title IV Policy

For students who withdraw and received Title IV funds, the institution is required by federal statute to recalculate federal financial aid eligibility and a determination made of the amount of Title IV aid that was earned by the student. If the amount disbursed to the student was greater than the amount the student earned, unearned funds have to be returned to the Department of Education

The Return to Title IV (R2T4) calculation is set forth by the USDOE, which is required to be applied on all withdrawals who received Title IV funds.

PCI is a standard term school with two modules per term – each module is 35 days, which is 50% of the term. For modular schools, a student who successfully completes 49% of their term is not considered withdrawn for Title IV purposes and a R2T4 calculation is not required. A student who successfully completes (a passing grade) for one module of a term will not have the R2T4 calculation applied. For students who do not successfully complete a module in their term and withdraw, a R2T4 calculation will be performed.

In calculating the amount of Title IV funds earned, the school will use the following Federal Title IV funds formula:  
 Percentage of payment period or term completed = the number of days completed up to the last date of attendance divided by the total days in the payment period or term. This percentage is also the percentage earned.

If a student earned less aid than was disbursed, the institution would be required to return a portion of the funds. The requirements of Title IV program refunds when the student withdraws are separate from any refund policy that the institution may have. Keep in mind that when Title IV funds are returned, the student borrower may owe a balance to the institution. The school may also charge the student for any Title IV program funds that the student was required to return.

If a student earned more aid than was disbursed to their student account, the institution would owe the student a post-withdrawal disbursement, which must be paid to the student's account within 180 days of the student's withdrawal. If the post- withdrawal disbursement includes federal student loan funds, the school must get the borrower's permission before it can disburse. The student may choose to decline some or all of the loan funds. The school is authorized to use all or a

portion of the post-withdrawal grant funds for tuition, fees, books, and supplies. A student who is notified of eligibility of a post-withdrawal disbursement must approve within 14 days to the school in writing to receive.

There are some Title IV Funds that recipients were scheduled to receive that cannot be disbursed as post- withdrawal disbursements because of other eligibility requirements. For example, if the student is a first-time, first year, undergraduate student and has not completed at least the first 30 calendar days of the program prior to withdrawal, no Direct Loan funds may be disbursed.

If a refund is required, funds are allocated in the following order: Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans (other than PLUS loans); Direct Subsidized Stafford Loans; Direct Parent (PLUS) loans; Federal Pell Grants for which a Return of funds is required; Federal Supplemental Opportunity Grants for which a Return of funds is required.

## Military Benefits Refund Policies

### Tuition Assistance (TA) Refund Policy

PCI has a policy that returns any unearned tuition assistance (TA funds on a proportional basis through at least the 60% portion of the period for which the funds were provided to the military Service Branch. PCI courses are 5 weeks (35 days) excluding scheduled breaks of 5 days or more and TA funds are pro-rated up to when 60% of the class is completed which at that time 100% of TA funds are earned.

#### Tuition Assistance Refund Schedule

Based on Each Academic Course:	
1-5 calendar days from the first day of class	90%
6-10 calendar days from the first day of class	75%
11-20 calendar days from the first day of class	50%
21 calendar days from the first day of class	<b>40% (60% of Course Completed)</b>
Beyond the 21 <sup>st</sup> calendar day from the first day of class	None

General Tuition Refund Policy will be applied when calculating tuition charges for the term and student is responsible for any outstanding balance upon return of all funds. For students who use Military Tuition Assistance (TA) Funds, all TA money unearned will be returned to Veteran's Administration prior to any other refunds allocated.

### Chapter 33 Refund Policy

The general tuition refund policy will be applied when calculating tuition charges for the term. In addition, a student who does not successfully complete a course and withdraws, PCI may be required to return funds to the Veterans Administration per their policy and the student will be responsible for any outstanding debt created by this refund.

## Other Outside Agency Return Policies

The general tuition refund policy will be applied when calculating tuition charges for the term. In addition, a student who withdraws from school prior to completing the term or program, Pinnacle Career Institute will follow the return policies for any third-party agency funding the student may have received.

## Career Services

Pinnacle Career Institute seeks to create an environment that encourages and fosters the total development of each student through an integrated student support program. Career services, academics, and the campus leadership team work closely together to support every student at Pinnacle Career Institute.

Career Advisors are available to students for inquiries regarding employment opportunities or general career questions. An emphasis is placed in all classes to mentor and support students with the goal of industry employment and/or career growth in their chosen field. Soft skills are developed through learning how to communicate in a professional environment, participating in classroom discussions, building reliability through attendance and working with the career services team on career readiness.

Career Services includes:

- Developing a professional resume and cover letter
- Preparing for the interview; scheduling mock interviews for practice
- How to dress for success: when applying for job positions and interviews
- How to properly complete online applications
- How to set up and use social media for the job search – (LinkedIn)
- How to network to land a job
- How to research a company and keep up with industry trends

## Academic Services

Academic Advisors are available to provide ongoing support throughout the student's program. Academic Advisors provide support for our students and is their main point of contact. Our academic advisors work with students to provide services and assistance that enable students to experience educational success. Services include, but are not limited to:

- Health and safety issues
- Educational guidance and support including SAP and grade support
- Referrals to outside services
- Set-up tutoring services with their Instructor
- Attendance monitoring

- Time management guidance
- Basic technology support

PCI strongly encourages our students to reach out to their academic advisors to answer questions they may have about their class or program and/or to assist with personal challenges they may face while they are in school.

## Housing

Pinnacle Career Institute is located off 1-29 in North Kansas City right by the Kansas City Municipal airport. Pinnacle Career Institute does not operate on or off-campus housing. Students and their parents are solely responsible for housing arrangements, as well as their own security and safety. Students are responsible for making individual housing arrangements.

## Student Activities

PCI encourages student activities that develop individual initiative, group leadership, and professionalism through participation in activities that relate to business objectives and provide recreational opportunities. School-related student activities must be sanctioned and supervised by PCI staff.

## Academic Advising

It is the school's policy for all faculty and staff to focus on the student's needs at all times and provide the resources that will help them to complete their education goals while in school. Students who may require academic advising and tutoring may arrange this with their Program Director or academic advisor. The Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways is also available to discuss educational concerns with student's that may need attention. Discussions about tests and grading should first be discussed with the student's instructor. Further questions should be addressed to the Program Director and then the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways.

## Learning Resource System (LRS) and Learning Management System (LMS)

Pinnacle Career Institute LRS includes all resources available to students, both on campus and online. PCI understands that students require library services to complete projects, assignments and to succeed in school. The LRS provides quality services and resources to assist students in achieving these goals and promotes professional, creative, and ethical growth of faculty and students.

The Learning Resource System includes an online learning management system (LMS) where classes are accessed, and an online library. All content for online classrooms is housed within our LMS, and all student activities, quizzes, and assignments are submitted through the LMS system. (Canvas) Students must have access to the internet to be able to access the LMS and to be able to complete their coursework.

PCI has partnered with Library and Information Resources Network (LIRN) to provide convenient, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, online access to a virtual library for academic studies and research. This password protected, rich collection of periodicals and books, pertains to programs offered at PCI. PCI students may obtain the password required to access LIRN within their online classroom, from their instructor or the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways.

To access the Pinnacle Online Library, students go to the Canvas Learning Management System – Student Resources Hub.



## Academics

### Full Time Faculty

Name	Position	Credentials
<b>Jared Heitz</b>	Program Director, Wind Turbine Technician	Wind Turbine Technician Certificate, Pinnacle Career Institute. GWO ART certified. BST certification and Trainer. OSHA 30 certified. First Aid/CPR Instructor Certification Level I. LOTO and Confined Space Entry certified.
<b>Kyle Miller</b>	Full-Time Wind Turbine Technician Instructor and Boot Camp Instructor	GWO BST certified. GWO BTT and BTT Instructor. First Aid/CPR Instructor Certification Level I.
<b>Blaine Pettipiece</b>	Full-Time Remote, Wind Turbine Technician Instructor and AOS Degree Instructor	Bachelor Degree of Applied Science in Technical Management. Wind Turbine Technician Certificate, Pinnacle Career Institute. GWO BTT and BTT Instructor, GWO BST, OSHA 30 certified, & NFPA 70E, LOTO, Confined Space Entry certified.
<b>Joe Tomassi</b>	Program Director, Tower Technician	NWSA TTT-1. OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 certified. First Aid/CPR Instructor Certification Level I.
<b>Chad Alban</b>	Full-Time Tower Technician Instructor and Boot Camp Instructor	NWSA TTT-1 and TTT-2 certifications. First Aid/CPR Instructor Certification Level 1. SPRAT Level III (Society of Professional Rope Access Technician).

<b>James Masters</b>	Program Director, HVAC Technician	Master Mechanical Certificate. EPA 608 Universal Certification. OSHA 10 certified. HVAC business owner, 5+ Years.
<b>Henry Grigsby</b>	Full-Time HVAC Instructor and Boot Camp Instructor	HVAC Technician Certificate, Pinnacle Career Institute. EPA 608 Universal Certification. OSHA 10 certified. First Aid/CPR certified.
Jim Harper	Full-Time HVAC Instructor and Boot Camp Instructor	Master Mechanical Certificate. EPA 608 Universal Certification. OSHA 10 certified. HVAC business owner, 5+ Years.
<b>Joseph Skeen</b>	Full-Time Remote Instructor, TRDS100	3+ years of Skilled Trades teaching. 10+ years in Trades Industry. EPA 608 Universal certification. OSHA 30 certified. NFPA 70E Arc Flash Training certified. First Aid/CPR certified.

## General Information

### Terms and Credits

PCI programs of study are based on 10-week terms. Most programs are modular and defined as two (2) five-week courses or “mods”. Each course is assigned a specific number of contact and credit hours, depending on the student learning outcomes and requirements of the course. One clock hour equals 50 minutes of instruction. Students are also required to complete assignments or projects outside of class in order to meet the requirements of the course and contact hours.

### Unit of Credit Definition

PCI awards quarter credit hours for credit earned. PCI offers coursework in flex-education/hybrid and online delivery methods. The institution consistently defines and applies the definition of academic credit to transfer courses and the award of credit hours regardless of delivery. For all courses, the contact to credit conversion formula is applied. (See the formula description below). For non-traditional courses, the objectives and content of the course are also considered. Coursework is structured in such a way that students have appropriate opportunity for preparation, reflection, an analysis of the content of the required coursework and must demonstrate that they have acquired the skills/competencies associated with the course through a variety of assessment methods. Non-traditional courses require the same number of weeks as traditional courses and contain that same amount of work based on the same set of student learning outcomes.

## Contact Hour / Quarter Credit Hour Conversion Formula

Courses at PCI may include lecture classes, lab/clinic classes, internship/externship/ practicum hours, or a combination of these. One-quarter credit hour is equal to 30 units. Course credits are calculated based on the following:

- 1 clock hour didactic = 2 units
- 1 clock hour Supervised Lab = 1.5 units
- 1 clock hour Externship = 1 unit
- 1 clock hour Outside Work = 0.5 unit

For Title IV financial aid funding purposes in our Certificate Programs:

- Each class or mod is 5 weeks long and consists of 30 clock hours per week with 25 hours of classroom time in online and/or classroom and 5 hours of outside work per week.
- 5 weeks at 30 clock hours per week is 150 clock hours per mod / class.
- Federal conversion of clock hours to credit hours is 25 hours to 1 credit. For PCI that converts as 150 hours / 25 = 6 credits per class. 2 classes per term is 12 credit hours per term / 36 credits for the academic year.

**NOTE:** It is the academic policy of Pinnacle Career Institute that every 125 hour per module course includes an additional 25 hours of outside work or learning activities that take place outside of scheduled class time to support course learning objectives. Outside work is reflected in the assignment of credit hours and course grades. **Documentation of completion of assigned outside work will be required in each class. Assigned outside work is assessed by faculty and calculated into the overall grade for the course.**

## Academic Calendar

The academic calendar is available as an addendum to this publication. Please verify the start date with an admissions coordinator or staff member.

## Course Numbering

Course structure at Pinnacle Career Institute is built to provide sequential learning for students. The course numbering system is one way of designating where courses fall into this sequence of learning. The 100 level is for introductory courses; each succeeding level requires the completion of at least one of the courses in the previous level and indicates more advanced courses in the sequence. Note: Numbering within the course levels does not necessarily indicate sequencing. For example: a 101 course will not always precede a 102 or 103 numbered course.

## Academic Policies and Procedures

Pinnacle Career Institute reserves the right to revise all policies and procedures contained in this catalog.

## **Leave of Absence**

Pinnacle Career Institute (PCI) is a term-based academic institution, which offers courses in modules. PCI does not offer a leave of absence policy for its students because of the term based modular instructional design. If a student attending a standard, term-based program offered in modules ceases to attend at any point prior to completing the term they are enrolled in, unless the school obtains written confirmation from the student at the time they cease attendance that they will attend a module that begins later in the same term, they will be considered a withdrawal. With written notification of not attending a module within the term, the student must begin attendance within the next module or be considered to have withdrawn from the institution. The General Tuition Refund Policy, and the Return to Title IV calculation as stated with the enrollment agreement and school catalog will be applied. The last date of attendance will be used to calculate the tuition refund and Return to Title IV with the date of school determination being the date the student notified the school that they would be returning.

## **Exception to Policy – Pregnancy and Pregnancy Related Issues**

In regards to Title IX and requirements of 34 C.F.R 106.40 regarding discrimination based on pregnancy and parental status. An institution which does not maintain a leave policy for its students, the institution shall treat pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and recovery therefrom as a justification for a leave of absence for so long a period of time as is deemed medically necessary by the student's physician, at the conclusion of which the student shall be reinstated to the status which was held when the student leave began.

Students whose physician has deemed it medically necessary to cease attendance because of pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and recovery therefrom should contact the Title IX Coordinator or the Campus President concerning steps to request this leave. They may also refer to Institutional Policies Non-Discrimination within the Student Handbook.

## **Professional Conduct**

Pinnacle Career Institute is dedicated to the training and advancement of workplace skills and the development of ethically sensitive and responsible citizens. Students have the responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that does not impair the welfare or educational opportunities of others in the Pinnacle Career Institute community. Students must act as responsible members of the academic community and their respective future professional communities; respect the rights, privileges, and dignity of others; and refrain from actions that interfere with normal PCI functions.

If a student has been administratively withdrawn due to unprofessional conduct, they may appeal in writing to the President of the campus. Any documentation that supports their appeal should be attached to the request form. An appeal committee consisting of the Director of Compliance and the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways, will review the student's appeal, any documentation provided, and provide a resolution to the student in writing.

Should the student be dissatisfied with the resolution provided, the student may appeal to the President of Pinnacle Career Institute. That resolution will be final.

## **Termination by the School**

Pinnacle Career Institute, at its sole discretion, may terminate any student if the student:

- Falsifies his/her educational status certification on the Application for Admission;
- Fails to adhere to the attendance requirements as stated in the catalog or course syllabus;
- Maliciously destroys or damages any property of the school (the student may be held liable for the cost of repair and/or replacement of the damaged property);
- Demonstrates behavior disruptive of normal classroom discipline;
- Fails to maintain satisfactory progress as specified in this catalog;
- Fails to pay the program costs as agreed in writing;
- Fails to finalize or complete an Academic Improvement Plan;
- Engages in unlawful or improper conduct (including, without limitation, the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school property) or conduct contrary to the best interest of the school, or any conduct that reflects discredit upon the school or its reputation, as determined by the school at its sole discretion.
- Engages in unprofessional conduct to such an extent as to be determined to consistently impair the welfare or educational opportunities of others in the Pinnacle Career Institute community

### **Graduation Requirements**

To complete and successfully graduate from Pinnacle Career Institute, each student must meet the following requirements:

- Successfully complete with a passing grade, all required credit hours, either through transfer credit or through PCI;
- Achieve a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better

To receive your certificate or diploma upon graduation, each student must meet the following requirements:

- All tuition and fee payments are current;
- Complete Financial Aid Exit Counseling requirements where applicable;

### **Transcript of Records**

An official transcript is a certified copy of a student's permanent record that shows the academic status of the student at time of issuance. Transcripts can be requested by the student through Parchment at <https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/114343/institution>. You will create an account and complete the requested information. There is a \$10 fee for each transcript. One copy of an unofficial transcript will be issued to the student with their diploma.

## **Academic Integrity**

It is the intention of Pinnacle Career Institute to help students value the principles of integrity, honesty, hard work, and the motivation to be highly successful in their chosen career paths. We believe these core values help shape an individual's personal and professional behaviors. These values become an informal contract between faculty and students, where education is valued and a common set of behaviors promote success. Academic Integrity comprises all student behavior, and violations intended to gain unearned academic advantage or interfere with another's academics by fraudulent and/or deceptive means are prohibited.

Examples of inappropriate student conduct that can lead to the imposition of sanctions include, but are not limited to, the following:

### **Taking Information:**

- Copying graded homework assignments from another person;
- Unauthorized collaborative efforts on take home exams or graded homework;
- Looking at another student's paper during an examination;
- Unauthorized use of text materials or notes during an examination.
- Unauthorized use any personal handheld or digital device to obtain notes or information during an examination.

### **Providing Information:**

- Giving one's work to another to be copied, paraphrased, or plagiarized;
- Giving answers to another student during an examination;
- After having taken an examination, passing information concerning the examination on to students who still must take it;
- Providing a required writing assignment for another student;
- Taking an exam, writing a paper, or doing a project for another student.

### **Plagiarizing:**

- Unauthorized copying of all or parts of an article, paper, book, published work or other proprietary source including documents from the World Wide Web and submitting all or parts of the article or paper as one's own work, without proper citations or attribution;
- Submitting a paper acquired from a research or term paper service;
- Failing to give credit for ideas, statements of fact, or conclusions derived by another author;
- Failure to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another source, whether it is a paragraph, a sentence, or part thereof (except in some informal writing assignments, such as reading responses or reader's logs/journals, when the instructor has specified different guidelines);
- Retyping a paper not originally written by the student and handing it in for credit;

- Claiming credit for work done by someone else.

#### **Other Examples of Inappropriate Academic Conduct:**

- Conspiring with one or more fellow students to engage in any form of academically dishonest conduct;
- Lying to an instructor to improve one's grade;
- Having another student take one's exam, do one's computer program, or lab experiment;
- Submitting a paper that is substantially the same for credit in two different courses without the approval of both instructors;
- Altering a graded exercise after it has been returned, then submitting the exercise for re-grading, (unless permissible under the guidelines of the assignment);
- Removing tests from any location without the instructor's approval;
- Stealing exams or other course materials from an instructor or his/her agent;
- Stealing or altering an instructor's grade book or other academic records;
- Using spell-check or grammar-check software on a writing assignment when expressly prohibited from doing so;
- Accessing, changing, or using any information or data from a computer system to gain academic advantage for one's self or any other student.

#### **General Statement of Student Responsibility**

The student has full responsibility for both the content of academic assignments submitted for evaluation and the integrity with which all academic work submitted for evaluation has been done. **Ignorance of an expressed rule regarding inappropriate student conduct does not excuse one from adhering to appropriate ethical standards in the completion of academic assignments.** When in doubt as to the appropriateness of any action, students are to ask their instructors for clarification and guidance

#### **Academic Censure**

Offenders are subject to academic censure, which may include failure of an assignment, failure of a course, or termination from school.

### [Distance Education Class Delivery](#)

#### **Class Schedule**

Attendance is monitored weekly in the online (DE) classroom. For academic and attendance purposes, a week is defined as 12:00 a.m. Monday to 11:59 p.m., Sunday CST, with the exception of school breaks. Students should prepare to be academically engaged a minimum average of 25 hours per week.

**NOTE: Logging into the LMS without doing any academic work will not count as attendance.**

## Attendance Policy

Pinnacle Career Institute delivers its distance education programs online via the Internet with synchronous and asynchronous components. Students and faculty members interact with one another in virtual classroom environments via presentations, videos, video conferencing, simulations, assignments, labs, weekly participation in forums with faculty and other students, quizzes and tests. Success depends upon the individual student's self-motivation, ability to undertake self-directed study and determination to meet all assignment deadlines.

At PCI, we find our most successful students dedicate on average more than 25 hours per week to their studies and access their online classroom daily. Keeping pace weekly with participation and homework assignments is essential to successful course and program completion. Interaction with other students and faculty each week is an important element of each course.

Students enrolled in distance education classes are expected to complete a significant portion of their course work independently. Due to the nature of online learning, the instructor's role is that of a facilitator and guide. In that role, the instructor will provide the student with guidelines and learning activities and will offer feedback and evaluation as well as guided forum discussions as the student proceeds with the course.

The institution's philosophy on attendance supports its mission for preparing students in the skilled trades industry and related fields.

### **Distance Education Attendance:**

- Students are expected to attend their class for each module and complete all academic activities assigned throughout each academic week. An academic week begins at 12:00 am CST Monday through 11:59 pm Sunday CST.
- Attendance for each week is documented through the submission of a minimum of one graded attendance-qualifying activity per week in the registered module.
- Graded attendance-qualifying activities are defined as any activity, quiz, paper, lab, etc., or discussion forum.
- A student who does not submit a minimum of one graded attendance-qualifying activity per week in the module will receive an attendance warning.
- An online student who does not submit a minimum of one graded activity for two consecutive weeks (14 days) in a scheduled class will be considered to have administratively withdrawn from the institution at the end of second consecutive week and this will be the Date of School Determination (DOSD) for the institution.



**NOTE:** Documentation of completion of assigned outside work will be required in each class. Assigned outside work is calculated into the overall grade for the course. Time needed to complete outside work will vary and will require a minimum average of 5 hours per week.

### Boot Camp Attendance Policy

Each program has an 80-hour boot camp, which incorporates the hands-on training and certification testing for the program. Students are required to attend all hours of the boot camp. An extenuating circumstance may prevent a student from attending boot camp hours (such as illness etc.), and it is the student's responsibility to contact their Instructor/Program Director to discuss options for receiving the missed work during the boot camp. Please note that any certification testing a student misses may be very difficult to re-schedule during the boot camp and may require additional time. If a student does not attend boot camp or does not pass the boot camp, they will fail the Practicum course.

### Late Work Policy

If an assignment (discussion post, activity, lab, quiz, test, or other graded assessment) is not submitted by the due date, the student will be allowed to submit it late. An assignment submitted late may be assessed a 1% deduction off the final grade for each calendar day it is late. Late assessments are not accepted after the close of class, Sunday at 11:59 pm CST, the final week of the MOD.

### Attendance Waiver Policy

PCI will grant students a waiver to the attendance policy with documentation that supports the extenuating circumstance. The following criteria is reviewed when considering approval of an attendance waiver:

- ✓ Student has not missed more than 150% of allowable absence
- ✓ Student Satisfactory Academic Progress
- ✓ Student attendance history
- ✓ Student must have a qualifying circumstance
- ✓ Student must provide adequate written documentation that verifies the circumstance
- ✓ Student must make arrangements to make up all work missed during their absence

Only certain situations will be considered for attendance waivers. Students must present documentation for the waiver to the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways prior to the end of the mod. Requests should be made prior to the end of the mod and all work completed or an incomplete grade will need to be requested.

#### **Attendance Waivers may be considered for:**

- Serious illness or injury requiring medical treatment

- Death of an immediate family member
- Military training or related travel
- Jury duty lasting longer than 3 days
- Natural disasters in the student's area
- Other extenuating circumstance will be considered on a case-by-case basis

**Non-qualifying examples may include, but are not limited to:**

- computer problems
- transportation problems
- work schedule
- vacation
- family activities

## Academic Evaluation and Honors

For students to be fully aware of their progress, evaluations must take place regularly. Course grades are evaluated according to the grade scale below.

### Grade Evaluation

GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A	89.5-100%; Credit Awarded
B	79.5-89.4%; Credit Awarded
C	69.5-79.4%; Credit Awarded
D	59.5-69.4%; Credit Awarded
F	≤ 59.4%; No Credit Awarded
I - Incomplete	No Credit Awarded – 2 weeks to complete
W - Withdraw	No Credit Awarded

### Academic Honors

HONOR	GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)
President's Honors List	3.90 & above
Academic Honors	3.50 - 3.89

The academic evaluation period for Pinnacle Career Institute is based on the academic term. Final grades are posted to the student's record within 48 hours of completion of the class.

## Student Grade Appeal

Students who want to appeal their grade from the previous course must contact that instructor **no later than one week following the end of the course**. If issues remain unresolved after reviewing the grade with the instructor, students may appeal the grade by submitting a Student Grade Appeal form to their Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways or Campus President. Grade appeal requests must be made within three weeks of the end of the course for which the grade is being appealed and will be resolved within four weeks of the end of the course.

## Satisfactory Academic Progress

### General Standards

All students entering PCI must make Satisfactory Academic Progress toward their program completion. Satisfactory Academic Progress is measured both qualitatively (GPA) and quantitatively (credits attempted and completed).

These measurements include cumulative results during all periods of the student's education.

### Qualitative Progress

- The student must maintain a specified cumulative grade point average (CGPA) as outlined in the Satisfactory Academic Progress Table (See Table 3).
- When a course is repeated, the new grade will replace the original grade for the purposes of the calculation of the CGPA.
- Transfer credits (TC) accepted by Pinnacle Career Institute are not used in the calculation of the student's CGPA from other schools. Transfer of credits from within PCI that are part of the student's new program of study are counted into the CGPA as outlined.

### Quantitative Progress

- The student must complete their academic program within a specified maximum time frame. At PCI, the maximum time frame is 1.5 times the number of quarter credit hours of the program. This means that a student can attempt a maximum of 150% of the credits in the program. For example: if an academic program requires 66 credits (100%), a student cannot exceed 99 total credits which is 150% (66 total credits for the program x 1.5 = 99credits).
- The grades of A, B, C, D and P indicate successful completion and credit is awarded. The grade of F, FL, or I, indicates a lack of completion; no credit is awarded.
- The grades of A, B, C, D, F, and WF are used in calculation of the CGPA.
- The grade of W is for a student who is withdrawn from the school – Voluntary or Involuntary. The W does not affect CGPA but is calculated in the credits attempted within the program. A WF is for a student who has withdrawn from the class but has given documented intent to return for the next class. This grade is calculated both in the CGPA and the credits are calculated in the credits attempted.
- A student who has received transfer credit must complete their program of study within 1.5 times the rate of a student making normal academic progress. Such progress is measured according to the number of quarter credits remaining to be completed at Pinnacle Career Institute.
- If it is determined at any point that the student is unable to successfully complete the program within the prescribed 1.5 times rate of a student making normal academic progress, that student may be academically withdrawn from the program. At the point of determination, the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways will notify the student in writing that they are being academically suspended from the program.
- Pass/Fail classes are not calculated in the CGPA. Pass/Fail classes attempted are calculated in maximum time

frame (completion percentage).

### **Satisfactory Academic Progress**

<b>Terms or Quarters</b>	<b>CGPA Required for Programs 3 terms programs</b>	<b>Required Completion % of Credit Hrs. Attempted for the Entire Program (cumulative credits)</b>
<b>First Term 8.0 to 15.5 Quarter Credits Hrs. Attempted</b>	1.30	50%
<b>Second Term 16.0 to 30.5 Quarter Credit Hrs.</b>	1.60	66.7%
<b>Third Term 31.0 and above Quarter Credit Hrs. Attempted</b>	2.0	66.7%
<b>All Subsequent Terms including all Associate Degree terms</b>	2.0	66.7% Cannot exceed 150% of total credits in program

### **Academic / Financial Aid Warning**

Students are placed on either Academic or Financial Aid Warning if they do not meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at any evaluation point in their program. Students are allowed only one Academic or Financial Aid warning during their program. A student placed on either Academic or Financial Aid Warning must show both academic progress at the end of each class and the ability to achieve SAP by the end of the term, or they will be academically withdrawn from the institution. Students considered to be maintaining SAP while on Academic or Financial Aid Warning will maintain eligibility for Title IV funding.

### **Notification**

Students placed on either Academic or Financial Aid Warning are notified in writing. This notification is made to assist the student in improving their CGPA and course completion percentage through the development of an educational plan by the Director of Education or Vice President of Academics and Career Pathways. Students must reach SAP at the end of the term after they have been placed on Academic or Financial Aid Warning.

### **Academic Withdrawal**

A student who is withdrawn for not making Satisfactory Academic Progress either by qualitative or quantitative standards, has not made academic progress after being placed on either Academic or Financial Aid Warning, or has been disqualified by failing a class three (3) times, will be withdrawn from the institution and notified in writing by the Vice President of Academics and Career Pathways. They will not be eligible for federal financial aid. A student who has failed two classes in succession must successfully repeat one of the failed classes before progressing in the program. If the class is not immediately available, a mod waiver or withdrawal may be necessary until the class is available. A student will be academically withdrawn for receiving three failing grades in succession. A student who has been academically withdrawn has the right to appeal that determination in accordance with the appeals procedure.

### **Financial Aid Probation**

Students must submit an Appeals Application to the Academic Standing Committee which is comprised of the Program Director, Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways, Registrar and Compliance. The committee will determine if circumstances warrant a student being eligible to continue in the appeals process. Both CGPA and credit completion will be assessed in this appeal to determine if student may successfully complete the program.

A student approved to re-enter through the appeals process who was withdrawn for not making Satisfactory Academic Progress will return on Financial Aid Probation and will have a written **Academic Improvement Plan (AIP)** that will outline requirements for the re-enter. The AIP *may* include:

- Attendance requirements
- Meeting requirements with academic advisor / Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways to monitor progress
- Academic Progress at the end of each class
- Both the qualitative and quantitative requirement after each term is determined within the AIP, with the student reaching Satisfactory Academic Progress on the timeline set within the AIP.

Students on Financial Aid Probation maintain eligibility for Title IV funding as long as they are meeting the requirements as set forth in their AIP. If they do not, then they will be administratively withdrawn for SAP. A student will then be required to wait a minimum of 10 weeks (one term) and re-apply through the appeals process. They will then re-assessed by the Appeals committee to determine if they are eligible to re-enter.

A student approved to re-enter through the appeals process who was withdrawn for failing three classes in succession will return on Financial Aid Probation and are subject to the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards and terms as before withdrawal.

### **Request for Case Review**

A student who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the appeal may submit a written request for interview and case review by the Campus President and Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways. Upon completion of the case review, a final determination will be made and the student will be notified in writing of the outcome of this review.

### **Request for Incomplete**

A student may be awarded an “Incomplete” grade in a course in the case of special circumstances where they are unable to complete coursework in the pre-set time limitations. Students may be required to submit reasonable documentation as determined by PCI to the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways. Such special circumstances might include:

- Injury or illness requiring hospitalization or long-term medical care
- Participation in jury duty lasting more than two weeks
- Military service – training or conversion to active duty status
- Other special circumstances

Once a student’s grade has been changed to an Incomplete, they have two (2) weeks from the time of final approval to clear the Incomplete. This may be done by completing the course work for an award of a grade. If the student fails to clear the Incomplete (by completing the coursework for a grade), the student will receive a zero on any outstanding coursework

and this will be calculated into the final grade for the course. At the end of the two-week period, the student may appeal for an extended incomplete period; the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways will determine if the appeal will be granted.

### Course Repeat Policy

If a student receives a "D" or "F" in a course, the course may be repeated in an effort to improve the grade. Normal registration procedures are followed when a student repeats a course. A new grade earned in a repeated course will be computed in the student's cumulative grade point average. Student's transcripts will record both the initial course grade and the subsequent repeat grade. Once the course is retaken, the original course and grade will be indicated by a footnote that explains that the course has been repeated. The initial course grade(s) will no longer factor into the student's CGPA but the credit hours attempted do count towards the Credit Completion Percentage. The earned grade from the subsequent course will be posted as the official grade and will be calculated into the student's CGPA. A "D" grade may not be eligible for financial aid unless it must be repeated to reach CGPA at the end of the program. The student should verify with the financial aid office to ensure that they are eligible for funding.

Students are limited in attempting a course three (3) times to pass the course during an enrollment. Additional tuition and fees will apply. The student will be placed on academic warning after the second attempt. The failed course must be retaken within the next term and successfully passed and be meeting SAP or the student will be academically withdrawn. Please see Financial Aid Probation in this section for the reentry process.

### Withdrawal – Non Academic

Should a situation arise which requires a student to withdraw from PCI, the student must notify the school, to officially withdraw from the institution. Students who do not provide notification will be withdrawn from classes when it is determined by PCI that the student is no longer pursuing their educational objective. This date is determined after the student has stopped attending for 14 consecutive days of required attendance without official notification and is considered an unofficial withdrawal.

### Transfer and Award of Academic Credit

Academic credits with a grade of "C" or better earned at other accredited institutions may be transferred to PCI based on the comparability of the nature, content, and level of credit earned to that offered by PCI. No more than 50% of the required program quarter credits hours may be transferred and all credits must have been earned within the past five (5) years. Students wishing to obtain transfer of credit should have an official transcript and catalog or course descriptions sent by the accredited institution to PCI. There is no legally enforceable right for a student to require PCI to accept a transfer of credit from another educational institution. **Submissions should be made within thirty (30) days from the date of enrollment at PCI.**

### Seeking Additional Credential

For PCI graduates, credit will be applied by associating grades into the new enrollment and those grades will be calculated into the student's CGPA. **Credits must have been earned within the past five (5) years.** These credits will be counted towards course hours attempted for the course completion percentage.

## Change of Program PCI Students Transfer and Award of Academic Credits

For current students changing programs, credit will be applied by associating grades into the new enrollment and those grades will be calculated into the student's CGPA. Grades and credits that are not a part of the transfer program are not considered. For students who are re-entering into a new program, the same policy applies. For students re-entering into the same program, credit will be applied by associating grades into the new enrollment. All **Credits must have been earned within the past five (5) years**. These credits will be counted towards course hours attempted for the course completion percentage. An exception to this policy is within the Wind Turbine Technology AOS program with a graduate from the PCI Wind Turbine Technician program that may be greater than 5 years having the ability to transfer all credits into the AOS with approval of the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways.

## Student Records

### Transcript of Records

An official transcript is a certified copy of a student's permanent record that shows the academic status of the student at time of issuance. Transcripts can be requested by the student through Parchment at <https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/114343/institution>. You will create an account and complete the requested information. There is a \$10 fee for each transcript. One copy of an unofficial transcript will be issued to the student with their diploma.

### Student Record Privacy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) afford eligible students certain rights with respect to their education records. (An "eligible student" under FERPA is a student who is 18 years of age or older and in attendance at Pinnacle Career Institute. For the purposes of this policy, attendance begins on the first day of the term in which a student is enrolled.) These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day Pinnacle Career Institute ("School") receives a request for access. A student should submit to the registrar, Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the school official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. A student who wishes to ask the school to amend a record should write the school official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed.

If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the student in writing of the decision and the students' right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the institute discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The school discloses education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception, for disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person serving on the board of trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the School who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent or a student volunteering to assist another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for the School.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Pinnacle Career Institute to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

**Family Policy Compliance Office**

U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20202

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from students' education records, without consent of the student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the student, §99.32 of FERPA regulations requires the institution to record the disclosure. Eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures.

Pinnacle Career Institute student directory information includes name, local address and telephone number, permanent address, e-mail address, date and place of birth, photograph or likeness, college, curriculum, enrollment status (full/part-time), classification, dates of attendance, awards and academic honors, degrees and dates awarded, most recent previous educational institution attended, and participation in officially recognized activities.



A postsecondary institution may disclose PII from the education records without obtaining prior written consent of the student –

- To other school officials, including teachers, within the [School] whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in §99.31(a)(1)(i)(B)(1) - (a)(1)(i)(B)(2) are met. (§99.31(a)(1))
- To officials of another school where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of §99.34. (§99.31(a)(2))
- To authorized representatives of the U. S. Comptroller General, the U. S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as a State postsecondary authority that is responsible for supervising the university's State-supported education programs. Disclosures under this provision may be made, subject to the requirements of §99.35, in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State-supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf. (§99.31(a)(3) and 99.35)
- In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§99.31(a)(4))
- To organizations, conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction. (§99.31(a)(6))
- To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§99.31(a)(7))
- To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes. (§99.31(a)(8))
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (§99.31(a)(9))
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to §99.36. (§99.31(a)(10))
- Information the school has designated as "directory information" under §99.37. (§99.31(a)(11))
- To a victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense, subject to the requirements of §99.39. The disclosure may only include the final results of the disciplinary proceeding with respect to that alleged crime or offense, regardless of the finding. (§99.31(a)(13))
- To the general public, the final results of a disciplinary proceeding, subject to the requirements of §99.39, if the school determines the student is an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or non-forcible sex offense and the student has committed a violation of the school's rules or policies with respect to the allegation made against him or her. (§99.31(a)(14))
- To parents of a student regarding the student's violation of any Federal, State, or local law, or of any rule or policy of the school, governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance if the school

determines the student committed a disciplinary violation and the student is under the age of 21.  
(\$99.31(a)(15))

## Review of Records

It is the policy of the school to monitor educational records to insure that they do not contain information which is inaccurate, misleading or otherwise inappropriate. At its discretion, the school may destroy records, which it determines are no longer useful or pertinent to the student's circumstances.

## Restricted Areas

Access to areas containing student-sensitive materials is limited to PCI employees or appropriate federal agencies or authorized individuals. Students are permitted limited or no access to the following areas.

- The faculty lounge and work area. (These areas are strictly for faculty. Students are not permitted.)
- Instructors' computers, desks, and file cabinets. (Absolutely no access by students.)
- Any room or area posted as restricted. (Absolutely no entry by students, supervised or otherwise.)

Administrative Offices are restricted unless the student has received direct permission by the administrator to be there. The student may not enter any administrative office without that administrator or an authorized PCI employee being present.

## Student Civil Rights

### Civil Right Opportunities

**Vote:** Pinnacle Career Institute strongly encourages all student to participate in both the local and national government process. Students are encouraged to vote in local, state, and national elections, and if unable to vote prior to or after class, a student may arrange with their instructor to leave class to vote. Students may also register to vote at the campus.

**Constitution Day:** Pinnacle Career Institute recognizes Constitution Day each September 17th. Events are planned during the week to celebrate this important day to our country.

### Nondiscrimination Policy

Pinnacle Career Institute is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, marital status, national origin, disability, or religion in their admissions policies, educational programs, activities, and employment as specified by federal and state laws.

These laws include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, hereinafter referred to as **Title VI**, the Americans with Disabilities Act, hereinafter referred to as **ADA**, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, hereinafter referred to as **Section 504**, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, hereinafter referred to as **Title IX**. Inquiries, complaints and grievances, academic and nonacademic, regarding Title VI, Section 504, ADA, and Title IX may be addressed to:

**Valerie Bujak**

Campus President

Pinnacle Career Institute

11500 NW Ambassador Drive Suite 221, Kansas City, MO 64153

Telephone: 816-331-5700

The faculty and staff of the school recognize that at times problems, grievances, and complaints may arise. Therefore, the school has established a step-by-step procedure to help resolve civil rights complaints and grievances in all situations whether their origins are academic or nonacademic. The complaint procedure, including a statement of student's rights, as set out below; will be discussed in new student orientation. In addition, a copy of the procedure may be obtained from the Program Director, Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways, or the Campus President.

**Civil Complaint/Grievance Procedure**

Students having civil rights complaints, which cannot readily be resolved through normal channels, may request the assistance of the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways. The Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways shall investigate the complaint and provide a resolution to the student within five working days. If this resolution cannot satisfactorily resolve the complaint, or the student is unsatisfied with the resolution, within five working days thereafter, the student may appeal the matter to:

**Valerie Bujak**

Campus President

Pinnacle Career Institute

11500 NW Ambassador Drive Kansas City, MO 64153

Telephone: 816-331-5700

**Student Rights**

Students have the following rights at all stages of the Complaint/Grievance Procedure.

- The right to appeal at each level to the next higher level;
- The right to an impartial decision-maker;
- The right to relevant information unless it is otherwise confidential;
- The right to be free from retaliation for pursuing a grievance or complaint;

- The right to present evidence and witnesses;
- The right to representation;
- The right to keep the proceedings as confidential as possible.

## Non-Civil Rights Complaints and Grievances

The faculty and staff of the school recognize that at times problems and complaints may arise. The school is committed to keeping the lines of communication open with all students, graduates, and other parties that have an interest in the actions of the school. Therefore, the school has established a complaint procedure to help resolve these situations. The complaint procedure will be discussed in new student orientation. In addition, a copy of the procedure may be obtained from the Program Director, Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways, or the Campus President.

A student having a complaint should first discuss it with the instructor and the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways. If the issue cannot be resolved to the students' satisfaction, they should submit a written complaint to the Campus President by email or in person at the campus. The Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways or appointed staff will investigate the complaint and will provide a response within five business days after the complaint is officially submitted. If the student is not satisfied with the resolution, the student may request the matter be referred to the school's President. The President will review and provide a final response with 14 days of the written request for final review. The decision of the President shall be final.

Schools accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges must have a procedure and operational plan for handling student complaints. If a student does not feel that the school has adequately addressed a complaint or concern, the student may consider contacting the Accrediting Commission. All complaints reviewed by the Commission must be in written form and should grant permission for the Commission to forward a copy of the complaint to the school for a response. This can be accomplished by filing the ACCSC Complaint Form. The complainant(s) will be kept informed as to the status of the complaint as well as the final resolution by the Commission. Please direct all inquiries to:

Accrediting Commission of Career Schools & Colleges 2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 302

Arlington, VA 22201

(703) 247-4212

[www.accsc.org](http://www.accsc.org) | [complaints@accsc.org](mailto:complaints@accsc.org)



A copy of the ACCSC Complaint Form is available at the school and may be obtained by contacting Valerie Bujak, Campus President ([vbujak@pcitraining.edu](mailto:vbujak@pcitraining.edu))

## NC-SARA Complaint Process

Pinnacle Career Institute is a participant in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC- SARA), which allows the delivery of distance education to students in other SARA member states.

Students taking distance education courses under SARA policies who have a complaint must first go through the institutional complaint process outlined in this catalog.

If a student is not satisfied with the resolution after completing all steps of the internal process, the complaint may be submitted to the Missouri SARA State Portal Entity within two years of the incident. This process does not apply to complaints about grades or student conduct unless those involve discrimination or other legal issues.

Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development (MDHEWD)

SARA State Portal Entity

301 W. High Street, P.O. Box 1469

Jefferson City, MO 65102-1469

Phone: (573) 751-2361

Website: <https://dhewd.mo.gov>

A list of all SARA states and more information on the complaint process is available at <https://nc-sara.org/sara-student-complaints-0/>

## State Authorization and Contact Information for State Regulatory Bodies

The Missouri Coordinating Board of Higher Education (CBHE) regulates Pinnacle Career Institute. The following is the policy for complaint resolutions with the CBHE:

### CBHE Policy on Complaint Resolution

#### Introduction

In order for institutions of higher education to participate in the federal student aid programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, an institution must be legally authorized to provide post-secondary educational programs within the state in which it is located. By rule promulgated by the U.S. Department of Education, part of this “state authorization” requirement is that the state must have “a process to review and appropriately act on complaints concerning the institution including enforcing applicable State laws ....” 34 C.F.R. § 600.9(a)(1). For its part, the institution must “provide students or prospective students with contact information for filing complaints with its accreditor and with its State approval or licensing entity and any other relevant State official or agency that would appropriately handle the student’s complaint.” *Id.* at § 668.43(b).

The Coordinating Board has determined that from the perspective of the institutions and of students and prospective students, it is preferable to have a simplified process with a central clearinghouse for addressing complaints rather than a complex matrix of contact points that might not cover every possible complaint and might easily become outdated. Therefore, this policy sets out a process by which the Missouri Department of Higher Education will serve as the clearinghouse for complaints concerning colleges and universities authorized to operate in the State of Missouri, acting on those within its purview and forwarding those that are not to other entities for their appropriate action.

## Complaints Not Covered

Complaints concerning laws not applicable to a state institution of higher education are not covered by this policy. Complaints of criminal misconduct should be filed directly with local law enforcement authorities. Complaints relating to violations of Federal law should be filed directly with the Federal agency having cognizance over the matter in question (e.g., violations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act with the U.S. Department of Education).

## Exhaustion of Remedies at the Institutional Level

Many issues fall within areas that generally are within the sole purview of an institution and its governing board. Examples include, but may not be limited to, complaints related to student life (such as, student housing, dining facilities, or student activities and organizations) and certain academic affairs (such as the assignment of grades). Moreover, issues or complaints are generally more speedily and appropriately resolved within the grievance channels available at the institution. Face-to-face discussion of the matter through open door policies or other informal means is the preferred starting point. Should that fail, the complainant should use formal dispute resolution mechanisms provided by the institution. Exhaustion of all informal and formal institutional processes, including both campus processes and any applicable system processes, is a prerequisite to filing any formal complaint with the MDHE pursuant to this policy.

## Process

If a mutually agreeable resolution cannot be reached at the institutional level, the student or prospective student may proceed with the MDHE's formal complaint process. The complaint must be submitted in writing, using a complaint form provided by the MDHE. It may be mailed or faxed to the department and should include any other supporting documentation. The MDHE will acknowledge receipt of the complaint, either in writing or by email. Such acknowledgment, however, will not constitute a determination that the complaint addresses a law applicable to the institution or otherwise is a complaint covered by the policy. If there is no indication that institutional remedies have been exhausted, the complaint will be returned for that purpose.

**Filing a complaint pursuant to this policy cannot, and does not, extend or satisfy any statutory deadlines that may apply to filing particular complaints with any other state or federal agency having jurisdiction over such matters.**

Complaints that fall within the jurisdiction of the CBHE will be investigated and resolved as appropriate by the relevant unit of the MDHE. Complaints that fall within the jurisdiction of another State agency or are within the purview of an institution's accrediting body will be forwarded to that agency for appropriate investigation and resolution. The agency to which the complaint is forwarded will keep the MDHE apprised of on-going status and final disposition of the complaint. All parties to the complaint will be notified of its resolution by mail.

The MDHE will keep a log of all complaints and record the date received, the name of the complainant, the institution against which the complaint is made, a brief description of the complaint, the agency addressing the complaint, and the date and nature of its disposition.

**Note: Prior to initiating this formal process, complainants must first call the MDHE at 573-526-1577 to indicate their desire to file a complaint. At that time, the MDHE will ascertain whether the issue can be resolved through informal means and determine whether administrative processes available within the institution of concern have been exhausted. If after that screening the complainant still desires to initiate a formal complaint, the MDHE will send the complainant the form to be filled out and returned for that purpose.**

For Online students who reside in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Tennessee, Washington or Wisconsin, students can file a complaint with their own state regulatory agency. All other online students should file external complaints with the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education. The following is a list of the contact information for all state regulatory bodies.

### Student Complaints and Student Consumer Information by State Official/Agency:

#### Alabama

Alabama Commission on Higher Education, P.O. Box 302000 Montgomery, AL 36130-2000; Telephone: 334-242-1998; Fax: 334-242-2269; Website: <https://ache.edu/>

#### Alaska

Tyler Eggen, Program Coordinator for Institutional Authorization, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, PO Box 110505, Juneau, AK 99811- 0505, Telephone: 907-465-6741, E-mail: [EED.ACPE-IA@alaska.gov](mailto:EED.ACPE-IA@alaska.gov), Website: <https://acpe.alaska.gov/ConsumerProtection>

#### Arizona

Keith Blanchard, Deputy Director/Investigator, Telephone: 602-542-5769, E-mail: [Keith.blanchard@azppse.gov](mailto:Keith.blanchard@azppse.gov), Website: <https://ppse.az.gov/complaint>

#### Arkansas

ICAC Coordinator, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, 423 Main Street Suite 400, Little Rock, AR 72201, E-mail: [ADHE\\_Info@adhe.edu](mailto:ADHE_Info@adhe.edu); Website: <https://www.adhe.edu/institutions/academic-affairs/institutional-certification-advisory-committee>

#### California

Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, P.O. Box 980818, West Sacramento, CA 95798-0818, Telephone: (888) 370-7589, Fax: 916-263-1897 Website: <http://www.bppe.ca.gov/enforcement/complaint.shtml>

#### Colorado

Heather DeLange, Director, Office of Private Postsecondary Education, 1600 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202, Telephone: 303-866-4209,

E-mail: [heather.delange@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:heather.delange@dhe.state.co.us), Website: <https://higher.ed.colorado.gov/educators/administration/state-authorization-reciprocity-agreement-sara>

#### Connecticut

Education & Employment Information Center, Telephone: 800-842-0229, E-mail: [edinfo@ctohe.org](mailto:edinfo@ctohe.org), Website: <http://www.ctohe.org/StudentComplaints.shtml>

#### Delaware

The Delaware Department of Education, 401 Federal Street, Suite 2, Dover, DE 19901-3639, Telephone: 302-735-4120, E-mail: [ide@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:ide@doe.k12.de.us), Website: [www.doe.k12.de.us](http://www.doe.k12.de.us)

#### District of Columbia

Office of the State Superintendent of Education, 1050 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002, E-mail: [osse@dc.gov](mailto:osse@dc.gov) Website: <https://osse.dc.gov/publication/state-complaint-fact-sheet>

#### Florida

Commission for Independent Education, 325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1414, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400, E-mail: [amy.lefstead@fldoe.org](mailto:amy.lefstead@fldoe.org), Telephone: 800- 224-6684, Fax: 850-245-3233, Website: <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/cie/>

## Georgia

Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission, 2082 East Exchange Place, Suite 220, Tucker, Georgia 30084-5305, Telephone: 770-414-3300, Fax: 770- 414-3309, Website: <https://gnpec.georgia.gov/organization/about-gnpec/contact-gnpec>

## Hawaii

HPEAP Administrator, P.O. Box 541, Honolulu, HI 96809. Telephone: 808-586-7327, E-mail: [hpeap@dcca.hawaii.gov](mailto:hpeap@dcca.hawaii.gov), Website: <http://cca.hawaii.gov/hpeap/files/2013/08/Student-Complaint-Form.pdf>

## Idaho

Tamara Baysinger, Office of the Idaho State Board of Education , 650 W. State Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Boise, ID 83702 , Telephone: 208-332-1587 , Fax: 208-334- 2632 E-mail: [Tamara.Baysinger@osbe.idaho.gov](mailto:Tamara.Baysinger@osbe.idaho.gov)

Website: <https://boardofed.idaho.gov/higher-education-private/private-colleges-degree-granting/student-complaint-procedures/>

## Illinois

Illinois Board of Higher Education, 1 N Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 333, Springfield, Illinois 62701, Telephone: 217-557-7359, Website: <https://complaints.ibhe.org/>

## Indiana

Ross Miller, Indiana Commission for Higher Education, 101 West Ohio Street, Suite 300 , Indianapolis, IN 46204-1984 , Telephone: 317-232-1033, Email: [Rmiller@che.in.gov](mailto:Rmiller@che.in.gov), Website: <http://www.in.gov/che/2744.htm>

## Iowa

Iowa College Aid, Telephone: 877-272-4456, Website: <https://iowacollegeaid.gov/StudentComplaintForm>  
[https://iowacollegeaid.co1.qualtrics.com/ffe/form/SV\\_9Br0hqNMto1FitT](https://iowacollegeaid.co1.qualtrics.com/ffe/form/SV_9Br0hqNMto1FitT)

## Kansas

Crystal Puderbaugh , Director of for Academic Affairs , 1000 SW Jackson, Ste 520 , Topeka, KS 66612 , Telephone: 785-430-4240 , E-mail: [cpuderbaugh@ksbor.org](mailto:cpuderbaugh@ksbor.org), Website: [http://kansasregents.org/academic\\_affairs/private\\_out\\_of\\_state/complaint\\_process](http://kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/private_out_of_state/complaint_process)

## Kentucky

Sarah Levy, Executive Director, Postsecondary Licensing , 100 Airport Road, Third Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, Telephone: 502-892-3034, E-mail: [sarah.levy@ky.gov](mailto:sarah.levy@ky.gov), Website: [http://cpe.ky.gov/campuses/consumer\\_complaint](http://cpe.ky.gov/campuses/consumer_complaint)

## Louisiana

Consumer Protection Section of the Louisiana Attorney General, Telephone: 1-800-351-4889 OR 225-326-6465 , Fax: 225-326-6499 , E-mail: [consumerinfo@ag.state.la.us](mailto:consumerinfo@ag.state.la.us) Website: <https://regents.la.gov/students-parents/student-complaint-process/>

## Maine

Due Process Office Maine Department of Education, Special Services Team, 23 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0023, Telephone: 207-624- 6644, Fax: 207-624-6641, Website: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/cds/dueprocess>

## Maryland

Consumer Protection Division Office of the Attorney General 200 Saint Paul Place Baltimore, Maryland 21202, Telephone: 410-528-8662, Website: <http://www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer/complaint.htm>

## Massachusetts

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education One Ashburton Place, Room 1401, Boston, MA 02108, Telephone: 617-994-6963, Fax: 617-727-0955 or 617-727-6656, E-mail: <https://www.mass.edu/about/generalemail.asp>, Website: <http://www.mass.edu/forstufam/complaints/complaintform.asp>

## Michigan

State of Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Employment & Training, Post-Secondary Schools, P.O. Box 30726, Lansing, MI 48907. Fax: 517-373-3085, Website: [http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-61343\\_35414\\_60647\\_2739---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-61343_35414_60647_2739---,00.html)

## Minnesota

Registration & Licensing Office of Higher Education, 1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55108, Telephone: 651-256-3965 or 1-800-657-3866, Fax 651-797-1664, E-mail: [betsy.talbot@state.mn.us](mailto:betsy.talbot@state.mn.us), Website: <http://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=1078>



## **Mississippi**

Menia Dykes , Director of Accreditation , Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation , 3825 Ridgewood Road , Jackson, MS 39211, E-mail: [mdykes@mississippi.edu](mailto:mdykes@mississippi.edu) , Website: <http://www.mississippi.edu/mcca/>

## **Missouri**

Missouri Department of Higher Education, Telephone: 573-751-2361, Website: <http://dhe.mo.gov/documents/POLICYONCOMPLAINTRESOLUTION-reviseddraft.pdf>

## **Montana**

Montana University System , Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, 560 N. Park Avenue, P.O. Box 203201 , Helena, MT 59620-3201 , Telephone: 406-449-9124 , Website: <http://mus.edu/MUS-Statement-of-Complaint-Process.asp>

## **Nebraska**

Office of the Attorney General, 2115 State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509, Telephone: 402-471-2682, Fax: 402-471-3297, E-mail: [ago.consumer@nebraska.gov](mailto:ago.consumer@nebraska.gov) Website: <https://ccpe.nebraska.gov/student-complaints-against-postsecondary-institutions>

## **Nevada**

Commission on Postsecondary Education, 2800 E. St. Louis Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104, E-mail: [Mjwu@detr.nv.gov](mailto:Mjwu@detr.nv.gov), Fax: 702-486-7340, Website: [https://cpe.nv.gov/Students/Students\\_Home/](https://cpe.nv.gov/Students/Students_Home/)

## **New Hampshire**

Division of Higher Education/Higher Education Commission, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301 , Telephone: 603-271-3494, Website: <https://nc-sara.org/agency/new-hampshire-department-education-division-educator-support-and-higher-education>

## **New Jersey**

Office of the Secretary of Higher Education, ATTN: Complaints, P.O. Box 542, Trenton, NJ 08625-0542, Telephone 609-292-4310, Website: <http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/OSHEComplaintInstructions.shtml>

## **New Mexico**

New Mexico Higher Education Department, 2044 Galisteo Street, Santa Fe, NM 87505-2100, Telephone: 505-476-8400, Fax: 505-476-8454, Website: <https://hed.state.nm.us/students-parents/student-complaints>

## **New York**

New York State Education Department, Office of College and University Evaluation, EBA Room 960, 89 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12234, Website: <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/ocue/spr/COMPLAINTFORMINFO.html>

## **North Carolina**

Post-Secondary Education Complaints , C/O Director of Licensure , University of North Carolina General Administration , 910 Raleigh Road , Chapel Hill, NC 27514 , Telephone: 919-962-4558 , E-mail: [studentcomplaint@northcarolina.edu](mailto:studentcomplaint@northcarolina.edu) ,

Website: [http://www.northcarolina.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student\\_complaint\\_form.pdf](http://www.northcarolina.edu/sites/default/files/documents/student_complaint_form.pdf)

## **North Dakota**

Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division , Gateway Professional Center, 1050 E Interstate , Avenue, Ste. 200 , Bismarck, ND 58503-5574 , Telephone: 701-328-5570 800-472-2600, Website: <http://www.nd.gov/cte/>  
[https://www.cte.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/PrivatePS/NSDBCTE\\_Student\\_Complaint\\_Procedure.pdf](https://www.cte.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/PrivatePS/NSDBCTE_Student_Complaint_Procedure.pdf)

## **Ohio**

Max Exline, Telephone: 614-728-3095, Fax: 614-466-5866, E-mail: [mexline@regents.state.oh.us](mailto:mexline@regents.state.oh.us) ,  
Website: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/students/complaints>

## **Oklahoma**

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Telephone: 405-225-9100, Website: <https://www.okhighered.org/current-college-students/complaints.shtml>

## **Oregon**

Tabatha Heater, Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission , 3225 25<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Salem, OR 97302, Telephone: 503-934-3480, E-mail: [tabatha.heather@state.or.us](mailto:tabatha.heather@state.or.us) , Website: <https://www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Pages/complaints.aspx>

## **Pennsylvania**

Pennsylvania Department of Education Division of Higher Education, Access and Equity, 333 Market Street, 12th Floor , Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333, Telephone: 717-783-8228, Fax: 717-772-3622, E-mail: [RA-highereducation@pa.gov](mailto:RA-highereducation@pa.gov) , Website: <https://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/Postsecondary-Adult/College%20and%20Career%20Education/Colleges%20and%20Universities/Higher%20Education%20Complaint%20Form.pdf>

## **Rhode Island**

Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, 560 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, Rhode Island 02886-1304, Telephone 401-736-1100, Website: [https://www.riopc.edu/page/student\\_complaint/](https://www.riopc.edu/page/student_complaint/)

## **South Carolina**

SC Commission on Higher Education, Academic Affairs, Attn: Student Complaint, 1122 Lady Street, Suite 300, Columbia, SC 29201, E-mail: [submitcomplaint@che.sc.gov](mailto:submitcomplaint@che.sc.gov) , Website: [https://www.che.sc.gov/Portals/0/CHE\\_Docs/academicaffairs/license/Complaint\\_Procedures\\_and\\_Form.pdf?ver=2021-04-21-103421-883](https://www.che.sc.gov/Portals/0/CHE_Docs/academicaffairs/license/Complaint_Procedures_and_Form.pdf?ver=2021-04-21-103421-883)

## **South Dakota**

Katie Hubbart, 306 East Capital Ave. Suite 200, Pierre, SD 57501, Telephone: 605-773-3455, E-mail: [katie.hubbart@sdbor.edu](mailto:katie.hubbart@sdbor.edu), Website: <https://www.sdbor.edu/administrative-offices/academics/SD-SARA/Pages/default.aspx>

## **Tennessee**

Tennessee Higher Education Commission, 404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1900, Nashville, TN 37243-0830, E-mail: [shauna.jennings@tn.gov](mailto:shauna.jennings@tn.gov) , Telephone: 615-741-0662, Website: <https://www.sdbor.edu/administrative-offices/academics/SD-SARA/Pages/default.aspx>

## **Texas**

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board , Office of General Counsel , P.O. Box 12788 , Austin, TX 78711-2788 Website: <https://www.highered.texas.gov/links/student-complaints/>

## **Utah**

Utah Systems of Higher Education, 60 South 400 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, Telephone: 801-321-7200 1-800-418-8757, Website: <https://ushe.edu/office-of-commissioner/state-authorization-ut-sara/sara-complaint-form/>

## **Vermont**

Vermont Agency of Education, 120 State Street , Montpelier, VT 06620 , Telephone: 802-828-5402 , E-mail: [AOE.EdInfo@vermont.gov](mailto:AOE.EdInfo@vermont.gov) , Website: [http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-VTAOE-Complaint\\_Resolution\\_for\\_Postsecondary\\_Education.pdf](http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-VTAOE-Complaint_Resolution_for_Postsecondary_Education.pdf)

## **Virginia**

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Telephone: 804-225-2600, Website: <http://schev.edu/index/students-and-parents/resources/student-complaints>

## **Washington**

Washington Student Achievement Council, Telephone: 360-753-7800, E-mail: [complaints@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:complaints@wsac.wa.gov) , Website: <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/student-complaints>

## **West Virginia**

Nikki Bryant, Director of Academic Programming, Academic Affairs, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission , 1018 Kanawha Blvd., E. Suite 700 , Charleston, WV 25301, Telephone: 304-558-0261, E-mail: [nikki.bryant@wvhepc.edu](mailto:nikki.bryant@wvhepc.edu) , Website: <https://www.wvhepc.edu/inside-the-commission/special-initiatives/state-authorization-reciprocity-agreement-sara/>

## **Wisconsin**

Academic Programs & Faculty Advancement 1640 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706, Telephone: 608-262-8778, E-mail: [apfa@uwsa.edu](mailto:apfa@uwsa.edu) Website: <https://www.wisconsin.edu/student-complaints/complaint-form/>

## **Wyoming**

Wyoming Department of Education, 122 W. 25<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. E200, Cheyenne, WY 82002, Telephone: 307-777-7675, Website: <https://edu.wyoming.gov/beyond-the-classroom/school-programs/private-school-licensing/>

# Appendices

## Appendix A- Annual Disclosure of Completion Rates

All schools that participate in Student Financial Aid Programs must disclose the total number of first time freshmen students who entered the institution during a specific period, and how many of those students completed their respective program. This report is published every year on July 1.

It should be noted that the definition of first time freshman students are those who have never attended any institution of higher education.

**The following numbers are first time, first year students who entered Pinnacle Career Institute and were enrolled during the fall period indicated.**

First time, first year students	Kansas City
Reporting Date	07/01/2024
Reporting Period	9/1/21 - 8/31/22
First time, first year entering freshmen	577
Graduates within 150% of length of program	297
Withdrawals within timeframe	280
Completion rate	52%

## Appendix B- Annual FERPA Notification for 2024-2025 Academic Year

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) afford eligible students certain rights with respect to their education records. (An “eligible student” under FERPA is a student who is 18 years of age or older and in attendance at Pinnacle Career Institute. For the purposes of this policy, attendance begins on the first day of the term in which a student is enrolled.) These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day Pinnacle Career Institute (“School”) receives a request for access. A student should submit to the registrar, director of education, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, a written request that identifies the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the school official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA. A student who wishes to ask the school to amend a record should write the school official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record the student wants changed, and specify why it should be changed.

If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student’s right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing

procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the university discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The school discloses education records without a student's prior written consent under the FERPA exception for disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person serving on the board of trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the School who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent or a student volunteering to assist another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities for the School.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the [School] to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue  
Washington, DC 20202

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from students' education records, without consent of the student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the student, §99.32 of FERPA regulations requires the institution to record the disclosure. Eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures.

Pinnacle Career Institute student directory information includes name, local address and telephone number, permanent address, e-mail address, date and place of birth, photograph or likeness, college, curriculum, enrollment status (full/part-time), classification, dates of attendance, awards and academic honors, degrees and dates awarded, most recent previous educational institution attended, and participation in officially recognized activities

A postsecondary institution may disclose PII from the education records without obtaining prior written consent of the student –

- To other school officials, including teachers, within the [School] whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in §99.31(a)(1)(i)(B)(1) - (a)(1)(i)(B)(2) are met. (§99.31(a)(1))

- To officials of another school where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student’s enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of §99.34. (§99.31(a)(2))
- To authorized representatives of the U. S. Comptroller General, the U. S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as a State postsecondary authority that is responsible for supervising the university’s State-supported education programs. Disclosures under this provision may be made, subject to the requirements of §99.35, in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State-supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf. (§§99.31(a)(3) and 99.35)
- In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§99.31(a)(4))
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction. (§99.31(a)(6))
- To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§99.31(a)(7))
- To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes. (§99.31(a)(8))
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (§99.31(a)(9))
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to §99.36. (§99.31(a)(10))
- Information the school has designated as “directory information” under §99.37. (§99.31(a)(11))
- To a victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense, subject to the requirements of §99.39. The disclosure may only include the final results of the disciplinary proceeding with respect to that alleged crime or offense, regardless of the finding. (§99.31(a)(13))
- To the general public, the final results of a disciplinary proceeding, subject to the requirements of §99.39, if the school determines the student is an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or non-forcible sex offense and the student has committed a violation of the school’s rules or policies with respect to the allegation made against him or her. (§99.31(a)(14))
- To parents of a student regarding the student’s violation of any Federal, State, or local law, or of any rule or policy of the school, governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance if the school determines the student committed a disciplinary violation and the student is under the age of 21. (§99.31(a)(15))

## Appendix C- Jean Clery Disclosure of Campus Security & Campus Crime Statistics Act

Publication Date: October 1<sup>st</sup> 2023

This Report includes the following information concerning Annual Review of Policy and Procedures for the following:

- Clery Act
- Sexual Misconduct Policy and Title IX Contacts
- Non-Discrimination Policy
- Updated list of contacts and resources

The Jeanne Clery Act Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics 2023 Annual Report - is located on the PCI Website at:

<https://www.pcitraining.edu/consumer-disclosure>

#### **ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT**

In addition, if you would like to have a printed copy of either publication, please contact the Compliance office at [compliance@pcitraining.edu](mailto:compliance@pcitraining.edu) and one will be mailed.



### **Tuition and Fee Schedule**

Effective for all classes starting on or after 8.14.2023

#### **HVAC TECHNICIAN – CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

LENGTH: 40 WEEKS

TUITION: \$23,464.00

##### *PROGRAM INCLUDES:*

Books and Fees, Boot Camp at Pinnacle Career Institute in Kansas City, MO, EPA 608 Universal Certification which includes Core, Type I, Type II and Type III Certifications\*, Basic Industry-Specific Tool Kit at Boot Camp

#### **TOWER TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

LENGTH: 30 Weeks

TUITION: \$17,598.00

##### *PROGRAM INCLUDES:*

Books and Fees, Boot Camp at Pinnacle Career Institute in Kansas City, MO, OSHA-10 Certification\*, AED/CPR & First Aid Certification\*, Telecommunications Tower Technician 1 (TTT-1) certification from the National Wireless Safety Alliance\*, National Safety Compliance Lock-out Tag out\*, Rigging Awareness and RF Awareness\*

## **WIND TURBINE TECHNICIAN - CERTIFICATE**

LENGTH: 40 Weeks

TUITION: \$23,464.00

### **PROGRAM INCLUDES:**

Books and Fees, Boot Camp at Pinnacle Career Institute in Kansas City, MO OSHA-30 Certification\*, AED/CPR & First Aid Certification\*,

Global Wind Organization Basic Safety Training (BST) Certification\*

- First Aid
- Manual Handling
- Fire Awareness
- Working at Heights

Global Wind Organization Basic Technical Training (BTT) Certification\*

- Electrical
- Hydraulics
- Mechanical

## **WIND ENERGY TECHNOLOGY – ASSOCIATE OF OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES DEGREE**

LENGTH: 70 Weeks

TUITION: \$41,062.00

### **PROGRAM INCLUDES:**

Books and Fees, Boot Camp at Pinnacle Career Institute in Kansas City, MO, OSHA-30 Certification, CPR & First Aid Certification Course, Global Wind Organization Safety at Heights Certification\* (part of the Wind Turbine Certificate Program)

## **WIND ENERGY TECHNOLOGY – ASSOCIATE OF OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES DEGREE –**

*Wind Turbine Certificate Graduates Only*

LENGTH: 30 Weeks



TUITION: \$17,598.00

*PROGRAM INCLUDES:*

Books and Fees

**NOTE:** Certification Testing and Exams listed are included in the price of tuition for a one- time attempt. If a student should fail or choose not to take as scheduled in boot camp, additional costs of testing will be the responsibility of the student and must be paid prior to re-examination. If a student must return to PCI to test, they are responsible for the cost of travel and lodging. **PCI does not provide a guarantee a student will pass certification exams and testing.**

Cost per Credit Hour

<b>Program</b>	<b>Credit</b>	<b>Cost Per Credit Hr.</b>
HVAC Technician – Certificate Program	60	\$391.07
Tower Technician – Certificate Program	45	\$391.07
Wind Turbine Technician – Certificate Program	60	\$391.07
Wind Energy Technology – Associate of Occupational Studies Degree	36	\$488.03

Additional Fees

Course Repeat Cost	\$2933.00
Flight no-show for Boot Camp (see Boot Camp	\$500.00
Duplicate Diploma	\$10.00
Transcripts (Parchment.com)	\$10.00

Testing Fees

OSHA 10	\$40.00
OSHA 30	\$135.00
CPR/First Aid/AED	\$35.00
EPA 608	\$25.00
GWO BST	\$400.00
GWO BTT	\$400.00
TTT-1 Certification	\$274.00
NABCEP	-----

## Academic Calendar 2025

JANUARY						
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
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NOVEMBER						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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DECEMBER						
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28	29	30	31			

 Class Start Date

 Class End Date

 Holiday - school in attendance for on-line classes

 Holiday/Scheduled Break for students

## Academic Calendar 2026

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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FEBRUARY						
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MARCH						
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APRIL						
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MAY						
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31						

JUNE						
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JULY						
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AUGUST						
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30	31					


SEPTEMBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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27	28	29	30	31		

 Class Start Date

 Holiday/Scheduled Break for students

 Class End Date

 Holiday -school in attendance for on-line classes

# Student Handbook

## Welcome

We are pleased that you have chosen Pinnacle Career Institute (PCI) to pursue your career goals. The intention of this handbook is to acquaint you with important policies and procedures of PCI. Such information and all subsequent additions or modifications of such material are considered part of this handbook. PCI may modify this handbook at any time with or without advance notice. For more information, you are encouraged to contact your campus administration.

## General Campus Information

Doors	Days	Open Access
Main Entrance	Monday-Friday	9:00AM-5:00PM

There is ample student parking in the parking lot. There are designated spaces directly in front that are reserved for visitors and handicap parking. Any students parked in these spaces will be asked to move their vehicle.

## Open Lab Hours

Computers are available to students for use only on school assignments during normal building hours. Please see the Internet Use Agreement in this publication for more computer use information.

## Inclement Weather

Pinnacle Career Institute may close due to snow or other severe weather, and the campus makes that decision independently. Local television and radio stations are notified, an announcement will be posted on PCI social media accounts and in the LMS.

## School Closures and Make-Up Dates

In the event that the school closes due to inclement weather, national holiday, or other event, a make-up date and time will be announced in lieu of the regularly scheduled date and time. School administration will make all efforts to notify students in a timely manner of the rescheduled date and time. Please contact your instructor or campus administration for further information.

## Meeting with Faculty and Administration

To speak with a faculty member or administrator, please contact either by phone or email to schedule. During your class period, please check availability before the start of class or during a scheduled break. Faculty members may not be available to meet if they are in the classroom for boot camp.

In all cases, please get permission from your instructor if at boot camp before leaving class. If you leave class without the instructor's permission or knowledge, that time will be counted as time absent from class.

## Food and Drink

Food is not permitted in any of the lab areas. Drinks with close-able lids will be allowed. Only water bottles are allowed in the computer lab.

## Smoking Areas

Designated smoking areas are located outside the buildings. Absolutely no smoking is allowed near the front entrances of the building. Make sure all smoking materials, i.e. matches, cigarette butts, and packaging are placed in the outside cigarette receptacles. Other trash materials are a fire hazard in these containers and must be placed in standard trash receptacles.

## Student Code of Conduct

Pinnacle Career Institute is dedicated to the training and advancement of workplace skills and the development of ethically sensitive and responsible citizens. Students have the responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that does not impair the welfare or educational opportunities of others in the PCI community. Students must act as responsible members of the academic community and their respective future professional communities; respect the rights, privileges, and dignity of others; and refrain from actions that interfere with normal PCI functions.

The following principles should be followed when communicating and interacting online with other students, instructors, and faculty.

- Adhere to the same standards of professional behavior online that you follow face to face.
- Respect other people's time and privacy.
- Share expert knowledge.
- Be forgiving of other people's mistakes.
- Portray yourself in a positive light to other students and instructors.

If a student has been administratively withdrawn due to unprofessional conduct, they may appeal in writing to the Campus President. Any documentation that supports their appeal should be attached to the request form. An appeal committee consisting of the Campus President, Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways, and an alternate school representative will review the student's appeal and provide a resolution to the student in writing.

Should the student be dissatisfied with the resolution provided, the student may appeal to the President of Pinnacle Career Institute. That resolution will be final.

## Dress Code

Students are expected to practice good personal hygiene habits and dress according to the Dress Code at all times.

When attending boot camp, students should wear:

- T-shirt (short or long sleeve) or work shirt. (no profanity, inappropriate or vulgar language allowed)
- Jeans or khakis – must be clean with no holes or frays
- Work Boots – Preferably steel toed

PCI has daily contact with the public and prospective students, and we are proud of the professional image portrayed by our students. PCI understands the importance of professional dress to prepare a student for successful employment in their chosen field. The appropriate faculty or Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways will address instances when a student does not meet the dress code. A student who continues to disregard the dress code policy may be asked to leave class and will be allowed back in class when in dress code.

## Attendance

The student's attendance record is one of the prime factors in successful job placement upon graduation. Students with good grades but poor attendance will often find it difficult to enter into and succeed in their new career. Pinnacle Career Institute requires student attendance in each class and has strict requirements for attendance.

Please refer to the Attendance section of the school catalog for attendance policies.

## Academic Integrity

It is the intention of Pinnacle Career Institute to help students value the principles of integrity, honesty, hard work, and the motivation to be highly successful in their chosen career paths. We believe these core values help shape an individual's personal and professional behaviors. These values become an informal contract between faculty and students, where education is valued and a common set of behaviors promote success. Academic Integrity comprises all student behavior, and violations intended to gain unearned academic advantage or interfere with another's academics by fraudulent and/or deceptive means are prohibited.

Please refer to the Academic Integrity section of the school catalog for this policy.

## Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy

### Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic communication device shall be used in a manner that causes disruption in any instructional, learning or activity setting, during any class, or within any college-owned, college-operated, or college-utilized facilities. This includes, but is not limited to, abuse of cellular or other electronic devices as follows:

- Utilizing cellular phones or other electronic devices with photographic capabilities for the purposes of photographing test questions or engaging in other forms of academic misconduct, academic dishonesty or illegal activity is prohibited.
- Photographing individuals in secured areas such as restrooms is prohibited.
- Taking photographs of any individuals without their consent is prohibited.
- Taking unauthorized photographs of documents is prohibited.
- Utilizing any type of electronic device to photograph, video record, audio record or make other electronic or digital record of or during course or extra-curricular activities is prohibited unless permission is expressly granted by the instructor. **When permission is granted, students agree to use such recordings only for personal use and agree not to post such recordings on the Internet, or otherwise distribute them.** Students needing recordings of lectures for disability-related reasons should contact the school's ADA Specialist/Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways.

Cell phones must be on vibrate at all times. **Absolutely no text messaging or talking on cell phones is allowed in class.** If you need to take a call during class time, please be respectful of your instructor and classmates by stepping outside the classroom. If you are aware that you will be receiving a call, please inform your instructor in advance.

### **Personal Responsibility**

All students and employees must be cognizant of the rules and conventions that make network resources and technology devices secure and efficient. Users of the College's infrastructure take responsibility for:

- Using resources efficiently, and accepting limitations or restrictions on computing resources - such as storage space, time limits, or amount of resources consumed - when asked to do so by systems administrators;
- Protecting passwords and respecting security restrictions on all systems;
- Preventing unauthorized network access to or from their computers or computer accounts;
- Recognizing the limitations to privacy afforded by electronic services like email;
- Respecting the rights of others to be free from harassment or intimidation;
- Honoring copyright and other intellectual-property laws; and
- Agreeing to report any violations of this AUP or any other College policy witnessed to the appropriate parties.

When any use of information technology at the College presents an imminent threat to other users or to the College's technology infrastructure, system administrators may take whatever steps are necessary to isolate the threat, without

notice if circumstances so require. This may include changing passwords, locking files, disabling computers, or disconnecting specific devices or entire networks from Pinnacle Career Institute voice and data networks. System administrators will restore connectivity and functionality as soon as possible after they identify and resolve the issue.

Students and employees are responsible for not sharing their privileges with others, and especially for ensuring that passwords remain confidential. Users of computers connected to the campus network, permanently or temporarily, are responsible for ensuring that unauthorized users do not thereby gain access to the campus network or to licensed resources.

Use of information technology that violates this Policy and rules based on it may result in disciplinary proceedings and, in some cases, in legal action. Disciplinary proceedings involving information technology are the same as those for violations of other college policies, and may have serious consequences.

### **Email Responsibility**

For more information on how to use email safely and some general guidelines, please refer to online resources including the College's Library Information Resource Network (LIRN) database. Any email received from the institution will be [\(name\)@pcitraining.edu](mailto:(name)@pcitraining.edu). Remember, any other email address not reflecting the pcitraining.edu is not from the institution and take proper precaution when opening.

### **Photography, Video and Audio Recording**

Many mobile devices are equipped with a camera and video/audio recording capabilities. Students must obtain permission to take and publish a photograph or video/audio recording of any Pinnacle Career Institute employee, student or related college activity. Cameras should be used for educational purposes only, such as recording videos or taking pictures to include in a class project or recording a student presentation and only playing it back for rehearsal and improvement.

### **Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA)**

Pinnacle Career Institute considers the use of peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing of copyrighted material, including music and videos, to be an inappropriate use of the campus network, a violation of this Acceptable Use Policy, AND it is breaking the law.

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) makes it illegal to download and/or share unauthorized copyrighted materials, which is usually accessed through file sharing software, commonly known as peer- to-peer (P2P) software. The illegal (unauthorized) sharing of copyrighted material exposes YOU to civil, criminal, and disciplinary actions by Pinnacle Career Institute. Copyright infringement in the file-sharing context is downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without permission. This constitutes an infringement of the DMCA and again is illegal.



This Acceptable Use Policy for Information Technology (AUP) states that you may not *illegally* share copyrighted material over the College's network, including by email, web pages, and P2P file sharing software. This applies to College-owned computers as well as personally owned computers if they are accessing the College's network. Please be sure that you have rights for any material you are making available or sharing on the college's network.

Since the College views any violations of the DMCA as a violation of campus policy and a misuse of its network, any student or employee found violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, as well as possible civil and criminal liabilities. A detailed description of the College's policies concerning disciplinary actions for the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material is contained in the student and employee handbook.

To better protect you and Pinnacle Career Institute *MOST* peer to peer file sharing sites have been blocked at the network level and cannot be downloaded or utilized on college computers. This does not mean that all possible sites/software have been blocked, as that is next to impossible. The responsibility is YOURS to not violate Copyright Law and the College's AUP.

Penalties for copyright violations may include civil and criminal actions. To summarize the legal penalties, anyone found liable for copyright infringement can be ordered to pay either actual damages or statutory damages. These damages can be costly per violation. If the court determines that, this was a willful act of infringement they can award up to large sums of money per work infringed, and/or imprisonment. A court can also access cost of attorney's fees to you.

For more information, please see *Appendix C – Copyright Policy and Penalties* in this handbook. Other references include the Website: <https://www.copyright.gov/>.

## **Netiquette**

Students and employees must adhere to the rules of network etiquette, or 'netiquette'. In other words, you must be polite, adhere to the organization's electronic writing and content guidelines, and use the network and Internet appropriately and legally. Pinnacle Career Institute will determine what materials, files, information software, communications, and other content and activity are permitted or prohibited. The following is a list that everyone is expected to agree with regarding technology use behavior:

- I will take good care of College-owned equipment.
- I will never leave my own or College-owned device unattended.
- I will never loan out the College-owned device(s) to other individuals.
- I will know where my own or the College-owned device is at all times.
- I will charge my own or the College-owned device's battery daily to ensure its availability
- I will keep food and beverages away from the College-owned equipment since they may cause damage.
- I will not disassemble any part of the College-owned equipment or attempt any repairs.

- I will not install programs or applications on the College-owned equipment unless explicitly directed otherwise.
- I will save work to my cloud drive.
- I will protect the College-owned equipment by carrying it only in the case provided.
- I will use my own or the College-owned equipment in ways that are appropriate and educational.
- I will not write, carve or put stickers on the College-owned equipment.
- I will respect and value college resources when using either my own or the College-owned equipment.
- I will be responsible for all damage or loss caused by neglect or abuse.
- I agree to pay for the replacement of power cords, mobile device case, or any other College-provided accessories in the event any of these items are lost, stolen or damaged.
- I agree to return the College-owned device(s), power cord, case, and any other College-provided accessory in good working condition.
- I will respect others when using the Internet; I will be polite and use good manners.
- I will use college-appropriate behavior on all applications and web sites.
- I will work and collaborate productively with others.
- I will not partake in, or intentionally attack or disrespect someone online.
- I will respect others privacy, and will not share or post information of others' without proper permission (i.e., pictures, videos, etc.).
- I will mind my online language. I will not 'YELL,' by using all caps when I type.
- I will follow the policies outlined in the Mobile Device Agreement, the Acceptable Use Policy, and copyright rules while on campus, as well as off campus.

### **Prohibited Activity**

**The list below includes, but is not limited to, activities that violate the Acceptable Usage Policy:**

- Using, transmitting, receiving, sending or seeking inappropriate, offensive, vulgar, suggestive, obscene, abusive, harassing, belligerent, threatening, defamatory or misleading language or materials.
- Making ethnic, sexual-preference, or gender-related slurs or jokes.
- Causing harm to or damaging others' personal property.
- Using another person's password to trick recipients into believing someone other than you is communicating with them.
- Uploading or downloading a virus, harmful component, or corrupted data.

- Using software that is not licensed or approved by Pinnacle Career Institute.
- Accessing controversial or offensive materials. Network and Internet access may expose students and employees to illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or offensive materials. Students and employees must avoid these sites. If you know of students and employees who are visiting these sites, report that use to your instructor or campus administrator.
- Engaging in commercial activity. Students may not solicit or advertise the sale of any goods or services. Students may not divulge private information—including credit card numbers.
- Using copy and printing privileges to reproduce documents or materials that are not directly related to your assignments.
- Encouraging peers to view, download, or search for materials, files, information, software, or other offensive, defamatory, misleading, infringing, or illegal content.
- Students and employees are prohibited from downloading, installing and/or connecting to any music services from any devices connected to the college's network.
- No student is to copy ANY Pinnacle Career Institute data from a network drive or resource and remove from the premises without EXPLICIT permission from the Campus President.
- ALL printed material that is deemed trash that contains any sensitive information such as social security numbers, birthdates, home address, phone number or any other personal information MUST be disposed of in the correct manner by being placed in the Shred it containers and NOT in the general trash receptacles.
- Miscellaneous undefined inappropriate behavior or conduct that rises to a level of concern.

## **Social Media Control**

### **Read the Policies**

- Read the policies (also called the "terms of service") of the social media sites, you use. Sometimes just creating an account means that when you post/blog/tweet/etc. the service gains the right to use your information. For example, if you posted pictures on Facebook they now belong to Facebook and they can be used in any way the company wants to use them.

### **Nothing is Private**

- No statement made on the internet is private. If you would not say the statement directly to someone in a public place, do not post/blog/tweet it! Think twice before you let your idea out into the world, it may come back.
- Employers look at prospective employees' social media pages in order to form an opinion about their character. Keep that in mind prior to uploading pictures of yourself and review pictures put up by others. Ask friends to take down pictures that could stop your career before it starts!

### **Stay Calm**

- If someone comments about something you do not like, be polite in your reply. If they argue with you without reading what you wrote, ignore them. Accept that very few minds are ever changed by someone's online response.

### **Accuracy Counts**

- Make sure of your facts and cite your sources. If you still get it wrong, post an apology and a correction. Use well-respected sites to check out anything that seems too good or too bad to be true.

### **Share Safely**

- Be careful how much information you provide about yourself or your friends. What would you tell a stalker about your daily routine? What do people really need to know? In addition, do not endanger your friends by sharing that information about them, either.
- You are not required to give any social media website your true birthdate (which is often used as a password on new accounts), your phone number, your address, or your current location. Make something up.
- It is best to share your experiences on social media *\*after\** they have happened. Telling a wide audience that you went to the concert last night lets you share without telling them where you are right now. Be smart and safe!

### **Connect with PCI**

- Website: <http://www.pcitraining.edu/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PCItraining>
- Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/pinnacle\\_career\\_institute/](https://www.instagram.com/pinnacle_career_institute/)
- X: <https://x.com/pcitraining>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@pinnaclecareerinstitute>
- TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@pinnaclecareerinstitute>
- Linked In: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/pinnacle-career-institute>

## **PCI Copyright Policy and Penalties**

### **PINNACLE CAREER INSTITUTE COMPLIANCE POLICY: LIBRARY AND CLASSROOM**

The purpose of the Pinnacle Career Institute ("PCI") Copyright Compliance Policy: Library and Classroom is to provide a summary of U.S. copyright law as it relates to the use of text-based copyright-protected works in the classroom and library at PCI, and to provide guidelines and procedures for obtaining copyright permission to use these works.

### **WHAT IS COPYRIGHT?**

Copyright is an area of law that provides creators and distributors of creative works with an incentive to share their works

by granting them the right to be compensated when others use those works in certain ways. Specific rights are granted to the creators of creative works in the U.S. Copyright Act (title 17, U.S. Code). If you are not a copyright holder for a particular work, as determined by the law, you must ordinarily obtain copyright permission prior to reusing or reproducing that work. However, there are some specific exceptions in the Copyright Act for certain academic uses, and permission is never required for certain other actions, such as reading or borrowing original literary works or photographs from a library collection.

## **WHAT IS PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT?**

The rights granted by the Copyright Act are intended to benefit "authors" of "original works of authorship", including literary, dramatic, musical, architectural, cartographic, choreographic, pantomimic, pictorial, graphic, sculptural and audiovisual creations. This means that virtually any creative work that you may come across—including books, magazines, journals, newsletters, maps, charts, photographs, graphic materials, and other printed materials; unpublished materials, such as analysts' and consultants' reports; and non-print materials, including electronic content, computer programs and other software, sound recordings, motion pictures, video files, sculptures, and other artistic works—is almost certainly protected by copyright. Among the exclusive rights granted to those "authors" are the rights to reproduce, distribute, publicly perform and publicly display their works.

These rights provide copyright holders control over the use of their creations and an ability to benefit, monetarily and otherwise, from the use of their works. Copyright also protects the right to "make a derivative work," such as a movie from a book; the right to include a work in a collective work, such as publishing an article in a book or journal; and the rights of attribution and integrity for "authors" of certain works of visual art. Copyright law does not protect ideas, data or facts.

In the U.S., the general rule of copyright duration for a work created on or after January 1, 1978 is the author's life plus 70 years after the author's death. This is often referred to as "life-plus-70". Works created by companies or other types of organizations generally have a copyright term of 95 years. For more information on copyright duration, visit <http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ1.html#hlc>.

## **FAIR USE**

A provision for fair use is found in the Copyright Act at Section 107. Under the fair use provision, a reproduction of someone else's copyright-protected work is likely to be considered fair if it is used for one of the following purposes: criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship and research. If the reproduction is for one of these purposes, a determination as to whether the reproduction is fair use must be made based upon four factors:

1. The purpose and character of use (principally, whether for commercial or nonprofit educational use);
2. The nature of the copyright-protected work;
3. The amount and substantiality of the portion used; and
4. The effect of the use being evaluated upon the potential market for or value of the copyright-protected work.

Fair use is an ambiguous concept and the law does not state exactly what uses of a copyrighted work will be considered

fair uses under the law and may therefore be used without obtaining permission. As such, individuals who are not lawyers may often need to be interpreters of the law in everyday circumstances, and answers as to how much reproduction may be considered fair use often remain unclear. The bottom line is that fair use requires a very circumstance-specific analysis as to whether a particular use or reuse of a work may indeed be considered fair use.

## **TYPES OF USE**

### **Classroom Handouts**

Based on PCI's fair use analysis, classroom handouts, other than materials supplied from the textbook publisher in faculty supplements, must have copyright permission obtained to use the work.

### **Course-packs**

All articles, chapters and other individual works in any print or electronic course-pack require copyright permission. Copyright permission for course-packs is usually granted by the academic period. To reuse a course-pack in subsequent academic periods (e.g.; semester, quarter, trimester, etc.), you probably need to obtain permission again. Many copyright holders provide time-sensitive permission because their own rights may be time-sensitive and could be transferred to different copyright holders at any time.

When ordering course-packs it is important to clarify who will obtain permission for the course-pack—the copy shop or reprographic center, the faculty member or a member of the administrative staff. Deferring responsibility for copyright permission will not provide you protection against a claim of copyright infringement.

## **PHOTOCOPYING BY STUDENTS**

Photocopying by students is subject to a fair use analysis as well. A single photocopy of a portion of a copyright-protected work, such as a copy of an article from a scientific journal made for research, may be made without permission. Photocopying all the assignments from a book recommended for purchase by the instructor, making multiple copies of articles or book chapters for distribution to classmates, or copying material from consumable workbooks, all require permission.

## **DISTANCE EDUCATION AND COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

In 2002, the Technology, Education and Copyright Harmonization (TEACH) Act became law and expanded the latitude universities, including PCI, have for the performance and display of copyright-protected materials in a distance education environment, including through the use of Learning Management Systems (LMS).

The copyright requirements for TEACH and LMS postings are similar to those of classroom handouts, but extend the traditional rules for those handouts to the digital transmission of materials to distance education students. If the use is planned, repeated or involves works that have existed long enough that one could reasonably expect to receive a response to a request for copyright permission, you must obtain copyright permission.

## **Copyright and Foreign Works**

The U.S. is a member of the leading international copyright treaty, the Berne Convention. As such, when PCI uses a copyright-protected work from another country, the protections provided to works by U.S. copyright law automatically apply to the use of that work as well (assuming the use takes place in the U.S.). Copyright Clearance Center has many reciprocal licenses to allow use of materials from other countries.

## **HOW TO OBTAIN COPYRIGHT PERMISSION**

Permission to use copyright-protected materials, when required, should be obtained prior to using those materials. It is best to obtain permission in writing (including e-mail) and to ensure that the PCI Copyright Officer has a copy of each permission form or letter.

The time to obtain permission may vary and, where possible, it is recommended to start the permissions procedure at least six months prior to the time that you wish to use the materials. If you need a quicker permission, let the copyright owner know this and he/she may be able to get back to you more quickly.

## **CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF FEDERAL COPYRIGHT LAWS**

Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work. In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted Work without authority constitutes an infringement.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or "statutory" damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than

\$30,000 per work infringed. For "willful" infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys' fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505.

Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to

\$250,000 per offense.

For more information, please see the Web site of the U.S. Copyright Office at [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov), especially their FAQ's at [www.copyright.gov/help/faq](http://www.copyright.gov/help/faq).

- The school, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction. (§99.31(a)(6))
- To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§99.31(a)(7))
- To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes. (§99.31(a)(8))
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (§99.31(a)(9))
- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to §99.36. (§99.31(a)(10))

- Information the school has designated as “directory information” under §99.37. (§99.31(a)(11))
- To a victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense, subject to the requirements of §99.39. The disclosure may only include the final results of the disciplinary proceeding with respect to that alleged crime or offense, regardless of the finding. (§99.31(a)(13))
- To the general public, the final results of a disciplinary proceeding, subject to the requirements of §99.39, if the school determines the student is an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or non-forcible sex offense and the student has committed a violation of the school’s rules or policies with respect to the allegation made against him or her. (§99.31(a)(14))
- To parents of a student regarding the student’s violation of any Federal, State, or local law, or of any rule or policy of the school, governing the use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance if the school determines the student committed a disciplinary violation and the student is under the age of 21. (§99.31(a)(15))

## Student Boot camp Travel Policy\*

The PCI Student boot camp travel policy has been defined in greater detail to provide more clarity in regards to boot camp travel to the Kansas City, Missouri campus.

### Driving To Boot Camp

A student who lives or resides within a 250-mile radius of the Kansas City campus (located at 11500 NW Ambassador Dr., Kansas City, MO 64153) will be required to drive to boot camp. Upon arrival, the student will receive a prepaid gift card in the amount of \$500.00 to offset the cost of travel. To receive a gift card, the student must be current on all loan payments. All hotel and meal arrangements will remain the same for all students.

A student who lives or resides outside of a 250-mile radius of the Kansas City Campus (located at 11500 NW Ambassador Dr., Kansas City, MO 64153) who chooses to drive to boot camp, upon arrival, will receive a prepaid Visa gift card in the amount of \$500.00 to offset the cost of travel. All hotel and meal arrangements will remain the same for all students.

### Flying to Boot Camp

A student who lives or resides within a 250-mile radius of a major airport, will be required to drive to the closest major airport for their flight to and from Kansas City, MO. All hotel and meal arrangements will remain the same for all students.

A student who lives or resides within a 250-mile radius of a major airport who requests the use of a smaller, regional airport, and the airfare exceeds the \$500.00 roundtrip threshold, the overage will be charged to the students account with PCI. All hotel and meal arrangements will remain the same for all students.



## Cancellations

In the event a flight has been booked and the student needs to make changes to their flight, the student MUST contact ARTA, our travel agency, if it is within 72 hours of their scheduled flight time via email at: [kelly@artatravel.com](mailto:kelly@artatravel.com)

In the event a flight has been booked and the student needs to make changes to their flight, the student MUST contact PCI's Academic Advisor-Boot Camp Coordinator or the Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways, if it is outside of 72 hours of their scheduled flight time via email at: [durteaga@pcitraining.edu](mailto:durteaga@pcitraining.edu) or [tbaldomino@pcitraining.edu](mailto:tbaldomino@pcitraining.edu)

In the event that a student is a no-show for their booked flight and their ticket is nonrefundable and/or nontransferable, and a new flight is required, the student will be charged \$500.00 to their account with PCI for the cost and fees associated with the new flight.

\*The Vice President of Academics & Career Pathways must pre-approve any travel requests outside of these policies.