

GET INTO ENERGY CAREER PATHWAYS



Power Plant Operator: Putting STEM* to Work

(Includes generation of all types except for nuclear)

START
HERE

 HIGH SCHOOL
DIPLOMA OR GED

EARN CREDENTIALS:

- National Career Readiness Certificate
- Energy Employability Skills Certificate
- Industry Fundamentals Certificate

LEARN MORE / EARN MORE

Pass Pre-Employment Tests and Become a
HELPER

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT

- Apprenticeship (for College Credit)**
- Experience in Position

2 YEARS**

ASSISTANT OPERATOR
(\$30,000)

- Associate's Degree**
- Long-Term On-the-Job Training

3-6 YEARS**

OPERATOR
(\$55,000)

- Long-Term On-the-Job Training
- Experience in Position

6-8 YEARS**

OPERATIONS SPECIALIST
(\$75,000)

- Bachelor's Degree
- Long-Term On-the-Job Training

8+ YEARS**

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR
(\$85,000)

* Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

** Dependent on company requirements



POWER PLANT OPERATOR: What will you do? (Includes generation of all types except for nuclear)

What competencies will you need? (built on energy foundational competencies—incremental as career advances)

Note: Most utilities use a pre-employment test—to pass you will need math, communications, problem solving, and mechanical reasoning skills.

STARTING OFF AS AN ENTRY-LEVEL HELPER:

- Provide assistance to plant operators by reading gauges and checking equipment
- Make work area safe

- Teamwork
- Able to lift 75 lbs
- Listening and following directions
- Be comfortable with heights
- Be able to work in noisy conditions
- Math skills including algebra, trig and geometry
- Come to work on time and prepared

ASSISTANT OPERATOR:

- Auxiliary equipment operations and maintenance
- Check gauges and levels
- Alternating Current / Direct Current
- Valves
- Pumps
- Engines/turbines
- Plant processes and systems (water, electric, etc.)

- Physical ability to climb stairs and ladders, operate stiff valves manually, lift weights, control pneumatic or hydraulic wrenches
- Apply knowledge obtained during training in the work environment

OPERATOR:

- Ensure generating equipment runs when needed
- Prepare reports of unusual incidents or problems

- Use information to diagnose and solve problems
- Be able to manage multiple tasks at one time
- Understand and apply basic mechanical principles (e.g., gear trains, centrifugal force, heat flow)
- Ability to comprehend entire systems and how they function
- Ability to foresee system implications of malfunctions or of own actions
- Ability to anticipate required future conditions in numerous interacting systems

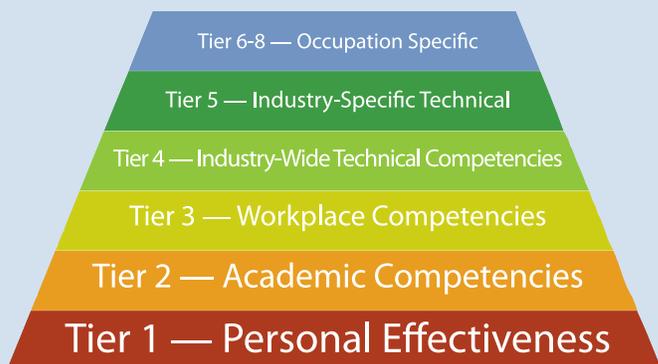
OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR:

- Determine schedules and work activities of team members
- Review team member performance and provide feedback
- Inspect records and log book entries to determine plant efficiency
- Prepare and manage budgets
- Report to management
- Deal with potentially stressful situations

- People management
- Communications skills
- Financial management
- Computer skills for report preparation
- Assign priority or sequence to the steps for completing a job
- Coordinate several competing activities for efficient use of time and material
- Adapt work procedures or priorities in response to changing or unforeseen requirements or conditions



ENERGY INDUSTRY COMPETENCY MODEL



Energy industry careers offer:

- Excellent salaries
- Job growth & stability
- Great benefits
- Opportunities for advancement
- Community service

Where can I find training?

Go to the Get Into Energy web site at www.getintoenergy.com/careers.php and check "Training Programs and Work-Based Training."

Where can I find a job?

Go to the Get Into Energy web site at www.getintoenergy.com/careers.php and check "Featured Employers."