



UTILITY LINE TECHNICIAN PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Career Description

Utility Line Technicians install and repair power lines from the generating plant to the end user. The work involves climbing poles and towers, operating digger-derrick equipment, backhoes, trenchers, cable stringing equipment, and bucket trucks. The work takes place outside and can involve working in adverse weather conditions and at night.

Who Hires Line Technicians?

Line technicians who have graduated from our program are working for Municipal power companies, rural power companies, electrical contractors, Railroads and telecommunication companies.

What are the UTIL classes like?

The UTIL classes consist of learning the basic theory of doing line work and then practicing the skills required for installing and maintaining utility lines. Most of the theory is offered in an online format that is required to be completed out of the classroom. This frees up most of the time during class to practice skills in the outdoor and indoor training areas. Time spent in the training areas includes setting poles, operating equipment, climbing poles, stringing lines, installing a variety of equipment on the poles, installing underground cables, terminating underground cables, and learning transformer connections.

What other classes besides the UTIL classes are required?

- **General Education Classes**
 - 22.5 Credit Hours required in the following subjects
 - English
 - Math
 - Humanities or Social Sciences
 - Natural Sciences or Social Sciences
 - INFO 1001, HMRL 1010, or RDLS 1200 (recommended)
 - **IMPORTANT NOTE – Students entering the UTIL program are required to complete one General Education course to qualify for entry into the program. Additionally, it is of great benefit to complete as many general education requirements as possible before entering the UTIL classes.**

- **Note: *If you are transferring classes from another college in the areas of math, English, social science, or humanities you must have earned a grade of C or above and the credits must have been earned from an accredited college or university. (See an Academic Advisor. The UTIL Program advisor is Hans Rudin 531-MCC-5820.)***
- **EMSP 1010** – Heartsaver First Aid with CPR and AED
- **Commercial Driver’s License Training**
 - Students are required to have a CDL Class A with a minimum of O Restrictions to graduate from the Utility Line Technician program. MCC offers DESL_2900 to fill this requirement.
 - Students who fail to obtain a Commercial Driver’s Permit by the end of the Line Construction I course taken during the fall quarter of the traditional weekday option and during the summer quarter of the weekend option will be ineligible to continue in the program.

How long does it take to complete the UTIL program?

There are two options for entry into the UTIL program. In the **traditional weekday option**, the student begins in the fall quarter in early September. Students complete four (4) UTIL classes per quarter for the fall, winter, and spring quarters. Many students complete an internship during the summer quarter. At the end of the summer quarter the student will have completed the UTIL course requirements. This option takes one year to complete the UTIL core classes. If the student has completed the general education requirements he/she will graduate at this time.

In the **weekend option**, students begin their coursework in the spring quarter. The classes are held on Saturdays and each student takes two classes per quarter. An internship can begin after one year of UTIL classes are completed. This option takes six (6) quarters of study or 18 months. Special consideration will be given to students working full time who are unable to participate in the traditional option.

Do I have to complete an internship?

An internship with a utility company or electrical contractor is not required but we encourage students to consider completing one. Seven and one-half (7½) credit hours of electives are required to complete an Associate Degree of Applied Science. The internship is one of the electives, as well as several other courses. ***It is the student’s responsibility to secure an internship.***

When should I take the General Education classes?

One general education class must be completed prior to being accepted into the Utility Line Technician program. **Additionally, it is of great benefit to complete as many general education requirements as possible before entering the UTIL classes.** Students also take general education classes concurrently with their UTIL classes.

If your English general education requirement has not been satisfied then you are required to take an Accuplacer assessment for placement in English. You must be at college level in English in order to enroll in the UTIL program.

When are the classes offered?

Traditional Day Option

Tuesday – Friday 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM or 1:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Weekend Option

Saturday – 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Where are the classes held?

The UTIL classes are all held at the Applied Technology Center (ATC) located at 10407 State St. This site has indoor classrooms as well as a large outdoor training area.

How much does it cost?

To obtain a degree you are required to take 101-102.5 credit hours. Tuition cost per credit hour, including the Facilities Fee, is \$69.00* for residents and \$101.00* for non-residents. Book costs will vary from one class to another but the book cost for the UTIL classes is under \$500. You will also be required to purchase tools that are unique to the Utility line trade. Tool costs, including boots, are approximately \$1,600. *(If you accept a seat in the program you are required to pay a \$50.00 non-refundable deposit that will be applied to your first quarter tuition)*

*The College tuition rate is subject to change without prior notice by and at the discretion of the MCC Board of Governors.

***Important Note from the Utility Line Faculty:**

Applying for financial aid can be a very confusing and intimidating process. We urge you to begin the process early in your college preparation. Even if you are not sure where you will go to college or whether you will need student aid, you can, and should, fill out the FAFSA. This form will follow you regardless of the college you choose.

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TRADITIONAL OPTION

COURSE ORGANIZATION

		Credit Hours	Quarter Total
Fall Quarter			
•	UTIL 1010	Pole Climbing	4.5
•	UTIL 1030	Ropes, Rigging & Safety	4.5
•	UTIL 1110	Line Construction I	4.5
•	UTIL 1020	Electricity I	4.5
			18.0
Winter Quarter			
•	UTIL 2020	Transformer Theory	4.5
•	UTIL 2110	Line Construction II	4.5
•	UTIL 1240	Underground Distribution Systems I	4.5
•	UTIL 2210	Overhead Distribution Systems I	4.5
			18.0
Spring Quarter			
•	UTIL 2030	Secondary Electrical Systems	4.5
•	UTIL 2220	Overhead Distribution Systems II	4.5
•	UTIL 2240	Underground Distribution Systems II	4.5
•	UTIL 2230	Distribution Systems Maintenance	4.5
			18.0
Summer Quarter			
•	UTIL 2981	Internship	8.0
			8.0

General Education Classes

Students will meet with an advisor prior to each quarter to schedule their General Education classes.

UTILITY LINE TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

WEEKEND OPTION

COURSE ORGANIZATION

		Credit Hours	Quarter Total
Spring Quarter			
•	UTIL 1010	Pole Climbing	4.5
•	UTIL 1020	Electricity I	4.5
			9.0
Summer Quarter			
•	UTIL 1110	Line Construction I	5.5
•	UTIL 1030	Ropes, Rigging & Safety	4.5
			10.0
Fall Quarter			
•	UTIL 1240	Underground Distribution Systems I	4.5
•	UTIL 2210	Overhead Distribution Systems I	4.5
			9.0
Winter Quarter			
•	UTIL 2020	Transformer Theory	4.5
•	UTIL 2110	Line Construction II	4.5
			9.0
Spring Quarter-2			
•	UTIL 2030	Secondary Electrical Systems	4.5
•	UTIL 2220	Overhead Distribution Systems II	5.5
			10.0
Summer Quarter-2			
•	UTIL 2240	Underground Distribution Systems II	4.5
•	UTIL 2230	Distribution Systems Maintenance	4.5
			9.0
UTIL 2981	Internship	8.0	8.0

Students are eligible to begin an internship after they have completed at least four quarters of study.

General Education Classes

Students will meet with an advisor prior to each quarter to schedule their General Education classes.

Utility Line Technician Program

TOOL REQUIREMENTS: (Industry approved standard tools)

Required by first day of class. Available for purchase at discounted rate at orientation.

Fall Restraint System 1 ea.

Rope (Safety) Strap 1 ea.

Double D-Ring Tool Belt (Body Belt) 1 ea.

Tool Holster 1 ea.

Nut and Bolt Bag 1 ea.

Climbers with pads 1 ea.

Gaff Maintenance Kit 1 ea.

Tool Bag with strap 1 ea.

Plastic Handline Hook 1 ea.

10" Adjustable Wrench 1 ea.

12" Adjustable Wrench 1 ea.

9" Line Pliers 1 ea

Channel Lock Pliers 1 ea.

8" Screwdriver 1 ea.

Skinning Knife 1 ea.

6' Folding Ruler 1 ea.

22 Oz. Claw Hammer (fiberglass or wood) 1 ea.

Lineman's Boots 1 pr.

Work gloves 1 pr.

Cut proof gloves 1 pr.

Hard hat 1 ea.

Hard hat winter liner 1 ea.

Hard hat chin strap 1 ea.

Safety Glasses (clear) 1 pr.

Safety Glasses (tinted) 1 pr.

What are the entry requirements?

- Must be a high school graduate or have a GED from an accredited institution
- Must be physically fit and able to lift 75 lbs. to waist level
- Must have the ability to reach in forward, lateral, and overhead motions
- Must have the ability to hear conversations and monitor equipment
- Must have the ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing, using appropriate grammar, spelling and vocabulary
- Must have a valid driver's license
- Must complete the pre-entry form
- Must take required college entrance exams
- Must test at college level in English
- Must have completed one general education course