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 Drivers License Training**

  o DESL 130U – Commercial Learner’s Permit
    - This course is required for all students entering the fall quarter of the traditional weekday program and the spring quarter of the weekend program.
    - Traditional Weekday students will attend this class on Mondays for the first 5.5 weeks of the fall quarter.
    - Weekend students will attend this class from 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM on Saturday during the entire spring quarter.
    - **IMPORTANT NOTE** – Students who test at the DMV and receive their Commercial Learner’s Permit and take their CDL, DOT approved physical prior to the beginning of the start of school, will not have to take this course.

  o DESL 2410 or DESL 131U – Commercial Drivers License Training

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**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 (7 ½) 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 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 91.5 - 94.5 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.*
## UTILITY LINE TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

### TRADITIONAL OPTION

#### COURSE ORGANIZATION

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**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

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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.
HOW TO APPLY

The following is a guide and checklist for students desiring to apply for admission to the Utility Line Technician Program at Metropolitan Community College.

☐ If you have never taken classes at or applied to Metropolitan Community College, create an account and apply to the college at:
  https://mccneb.elluciancrmrecruit.com/Admissions/Pages/welcome.aspx

☐ Complete and return the Program Pre-entry form found at the end of this booklet. The Program Pre-entry form can also be completed and submitted online at:
  http://www.mccneb.edu/UTIL

☐ Meet with Hans Rudin, the UTIL program advisor, 531-MCC-5820. Make arrangements to take the English Accuplacer, if needed. NOTE: If developmental courses are indicated by the assessment test, you must enroll in these classes. You are encouraged to complete as many of the General Education Classes as possible prior to your formal acceptance into the UTIL Program.

☐ You may also contact Greg Babst at 531-622-5806, Tim Bowling at 531-622-5812 or Rich Newcomer at 531-622-5811 to discuss program specifics and to ask questions about the program.

☐ If you hold a commercial driver’s license submit a photocopy of the front and back of your license.

Note: To be considered for entrance into the spring weekend class, your Pre-entry form must be received by January 1.
To be considered for entrance into the fall traditional class, your Pre-entry form must be received by June 1.
Applicants will be notified of their status as soon as possible following the Pre-entry form deadline. Late Pre-entry forms will only be considered if there are still openings in the program for that session.

☐ Submit official transcripts* for all post-secondary schools you have attended. Transcripts should be sent to transcripts@mccneb.edu or mailed to:

  Metropolitan Community College
  Attn: Records
  P. O. Box 3777
  Omaha, NE 68103-0777

*Note: To be official the transcript must be sent directly from the granting institution to Metropolitan Community College. Metropolitan Community College cannot initiate the transfer of your credits. You must contact the college or university personally to request official transcripts be sent.
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.
PRE-ENTRY FORM
UTILITY LINE TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

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I am applying for:

Weekend Option (Begins in March) ☐ (January 1st Application Deadline)

Traditional Option (Begins in September) ☐ (June 1st Application Deadline)

Will you use financial aid, student loans, or scholarships for schooling? _____ Yes  _____ No

__________________________________________________________
Applicant’s Signature                                          Date of Signature

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS BY THE APPROPRIATE DEADLINE DATE:

Metropolitan Community College
UTIL Program - ATC
P.O. Box 3777
Omaha, Nebraska 68103-0777