

Mechanical Drafting*

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Career Cluster

(AAS Non-Transfer Degree)

SAN JUAN COLLEGE

NATURE OF WORK

The mechanical drafter tends to work on drawings of items with moving parts. They are most popular with organizations that need drawings of machinery and mechanical devices. The majority of mechanical drafters use computer-aided design (CAD) and drafting systems to prepare their drawings. Since these drawings are saved electronically into a computer, showing movement and design changes can be done quickly and efficiently.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Mechanical drafters usually work a standard 40-hour week, though if under a deadline can be required to work extra hours. Mechanical drafters work in comfortable offices furnished to accommodate their tasks. They usually work in front of a computer but there are times when they may use adjustable drawing boards and drafting tables to do manual drawings.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Community colleges and four-year institutions provide the type of training the majority of employers prefer. Students who do well in mathematics, science, and engineering technology and have a solid background in (CAD) and drafting techniques are highly desirable. Communication skills, problem solving skills and the ability to work with others is also important to employers. Some companies are willing to pay for drafters to continue their education, providing them with the ability to keep up with the changes in CAD programs and computer software.

JOB OUTLOOK

It is expected that there will be a 6 percent increase in the need for drafters from 2006 to 2016. This is slower than the average employment growth in most industries. Job openings are expected to develop from the need to replace drafters who transfer to other occupations, leave the labor force, or retire. The best opportunities will be for individuals with at least two years of postsecondary training and strong technical skills, as well as experience with various CAD systems. Outsourcing these jobs overseas may be one cause for slower national growth in this area.

CAREER OPTIONS

Mechanical drafter

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

New Mexico— \$33,880—\$67,920
Nationally — \$33,340—\$65,260
(depending on skill, experience and responsibility)

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Aeronautical drafter, architectural drafter, civil drafter, electrical drafter, electronic drafter

SJC Basic Program Information

The Mechanical Drafting and Design degree program is intended to provide the students with a firm mathematical and scientific foundation on which to build a high degree of technological expertise in manufacturing and engineering technology.

Students must receive a "C" or better in all drafting courses to count toward a degree.

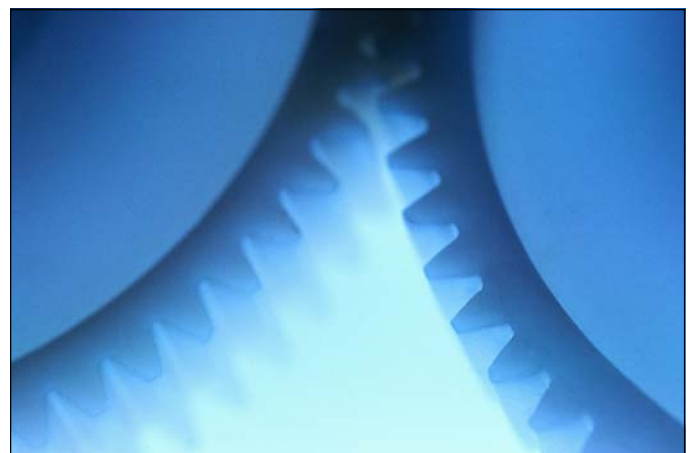
For further information go to:

www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp

Click on AAS link under Career Programs

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos111.htm

www.careers-nm.org



*Most of this information is from the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-2009

