

Commercial Driver's License*

Transportation, Distribution & Logistics Career Cluster

(Non-Transfer Certificate)

SAN JUAN COLLEGE

NATURE OF WORK

There are various kinds of truck drivers in our world today. Some have regular routes that they drive on a daily basis. Others are called long distance drivers who are on the road most of their working time driving a load to a destination. Upon arriving at the destination the long distance driver may have to unload the cargo and may be required to pick up another load to be delivered. A commercial driver's license (CDL) is necessary to drive these large trucks. Sometimes companies use two drivers when hauling long distances and the drivers use what is known as a "sleeper." This means that they have a berth behind the cab and one driver sleeps while the other one drives. Drivers are required to keep a log detailing their deliveries, the maintenance of the truck and any unusual activities. These records are required by the Department of Transportation.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Truck driving has become less physically demanding due to the improved ergonomic design of the cab, seats and air conditioning. People who are considered "heavy truck drivers" operate trucks that are 26,000 pounds or more. Truck drivers typically work long hours. Long distance drivers may work out of town most of the year. The work hours and conditions are governed by the U.S. Department of Transportation for interstate truck driving.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

A commercial driver's license is a certificate program. A Class A Commercial Driver's License is required to drive large trucks. In order to obtain a CDL one must have a clean driving record, pass a written test and demonstrate the ability to properly maneuver the truck. Many companies give drug screening prior to hires and periodically during employment.

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment opportunities for truck drivers is favorable. Overall employment is expected to increase by 8 percent over the next decade. Long distance drivers will be in demand due to the fact that they can transport perishable goods more efficiently than other modes of transportation. The economy will be a factor in the demand for these jobs. If the economy slows down there will be fewer drivers. Grocery store drivers will be the least affected by the economy.

CAREER OPTIONS

Grocery store drivers, heavy truck and tractor-trailer

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

\$34,000-\$52,700

(depending on skill, experience and responsibility)

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Ambulance drivers, bus drivers, taxi drivers, self-employed truck drivers

SJC Basic Program Information

The Commercial Driver's License Certificate Program is a concentration of the College's School of Energy program. Students will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to pass the three-part CDL exam. Students learn in the classroom, as well as a simulator, practice hands-on driving on the training course and the highway. Students are taught how to maneuver large trucks and how to inspect the truck and load it to be in compliance with regulations. They also receive instruction on log books and endorsements.

For further information go to:

www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp

Click on link under Career Program

www.careers-nm.org



The above picture is the state-of-the-art simulator used by San Juan College during CDL training.

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

