

Industry and School

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the type of job I could have if I had a degree?

A. This program allows you to work in any outdoor power equipment situation. The primary focus of the first year will be smaller power equipment such as two and four cycle products and consumer products. The second year will focus more specifically on golf course or commercial equipment, depending on interest. This would allow you to work for a golf course, lawn & garden or commercial dealer, parks department, schools, rental shops, or landscape business, to name a few.

Q. How much time is spent in class versus in shop with *on-campus* students?

A. Roughly 20 hours/week M-TH is spent in the shop working on labs, customer projects and purchased used equipment, while 5-20 hrs/week is spent on-line the classroom covering fundamentals anytime during the week beginning and ending on Thursdays.

Q. How much time is spent in class versus in shop with *off-campus* students?

A. Off-campus work environment is unique student to student. Some have full time jobs in a related job and incorporate the learning objectives within their everyday job. Depending on previous knowledge the on-line classroom will also vary between 5-20 hrs/week. This is completed anytime available during the week beginning and ending on Thursdays.

Q. Is it necessary to have experience beforehand?

A. No, but experience helps. Some students have never changed the oil in their car and some have years of experience in mechanical fields. Any part-time job, or summer job, that gives you experience working around equipment (even as an operator), will give you a head start in the classroom.

Q. Are there any females in the field?

A. Yes, I have 2 in the program right now. Due to their communication skills you will see them more in management.

Q. Is there a lot of physical needs?

A. Most of our equipment is small, precise, expensive, close to the ground, and tedious. Being strong can be a drawback some of the time. I tell my students to exercise the muscle in their head more than their hands. Being able to lift 35-40 lbs is pretty necessary. We have numerous lifts and tools for items bigger than that.

Q. Is there room for advancement?

A. This is not like corporations where you move up the ladder but if you are a fast learner, honest, and show the desire to do the best you can, most dealers or golf courses are willing to compensate you for that ability. Most ads will state the base wage and say DOE (depends on experience), which normally means, if I don't have to train you then I will pass that savings on to you. Advancement can come in the form of service manager, sales, parts, or business ownership.

Q. Is there any schooling beyond the one or two years?

A. You will be a life long learner. Factory schools and industry certifications are two areas to improve your education, and many times the employer pays for it.

Q. What other type of classes do I have to take outside your class?

A. See [class listings](#).

Q. What kind of tools do I need?

A. A basic tool set (both metric and standard), expect to spend at least \$1700. You will buy tools the rest of your life. There are many discounts for students to take advantage while you can. [Tool list](#)

Q. Do I have to know anything about grass and turf?

A. No, but it sure doesn't hurt.

Q. Will you individualize my training?

A. If you know exactly what you are going to do in the future, I will tailor your on-campus lab to meet these needs. If you are working off-campus then your employment is already tailoring your lab needs.

Q. Are there any scholarships available?

A. Yes, there are several and we are working on more. [Scholarships](#)

Q. What is the cost of housing and living in Walla Walla?

A. The cost of housing and living in Walla Walla depends on your tastes and lifestyle, but overall it is a relatively low cost of living. [Housing link](#)

Q. Do you have jobs available?

A. During school we have an "on campus" job service center. [Career & Employment Services Center \(CESC\)](#)