

POWER OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

When: New for Fall 2008!

Where: Walla Walla Community College

What: Outdoor Power Equipment Program

To respond to the growing need for highly skilled professionals in the Outdoor Power Equipment industry, WWCC offers a **new and revitalized** OPE program, beginning Fall 2008.

- The OPE program may be completed **On Campus OR Off Campus** from your shop.
- All classroom materials will be accessed on-line through our interactive blackboard.
- All lab instruction will be covered either, **On Campus** with our professional OPE instructor, **OR Off Campus** under the guidance of your service manager or other service professional.
- Students are required to master competencies and pass the EETC (Equipment & Engine Training Council) certification test. Each core class has a set of competencies to prepare students for the corresponding test.
- Emphasis is placed on fundamentals with lab options in handheld products, rental equipment, lawn and garden, commercial products, motorcycles, ATV's, and more.
- Our Instructor is a fully certified Outdoor Power Equipment professional and will mentor students as they go through the course.
- Students can do all the course work and EETC testing without ever coming to Walla Walla Community College.

See the next page for more in-depth information.



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New Course Format

WWCC's new Outdoor Power Equipment Program combines web-based instruction with hands-on experience in an outdoor power equipment shop. Course materials and assignments are delivered on-line, with the sequence and timing of materials throughout the quarter directed by the OPE instructor. Students will interact with each other and with the instructor via the Discussion Board element of the web-based classroom. The new structure of the program allows students to choose between two options – on-campus participation or off-campus participation. On-campus students will have access to campus computers and will complete the shop experience component of the course in the WWCC Outdoor Power Equipment shop under the supervision of George Klein, OPE instructor. Students participating in the program from off-campus will need to have access to an internet-connected computer, ideally at home and will need an approved mentor at their workplace to supervise their shop experience. Students who are employed while participating in the program will need to work with their employers to ensure that they have sufficient time to complete coursework, especially competencies.

Why Web-based instruction rather than traditional instruction?

Web-based courses add many benefits that traditional courses cannot provide. Having a program that is web-based:

- Provides greater scheduling flexibility for students, employers and the college.
- Allows students to enroll in the course from many areas of the country, doing their class work in the comfort of their own home.
- Allows the instructor to easily update course material so the most current information is available to students.
- Gives students experience using computers – a skill that is critical to an industry that will increasingly rely on computer technology.
- Allows students in all locations to interact with each other and with the instructor.
- Allows students to easily review materials presented previously in the course.
- Is environmentally friendly. The instructor does not have to print supplemental materials, reprint materials to reflect updated information or consume fuel resources to ship materials to remote locations.

Benefits of the program to off-campus students

- Students can continue earning wages while they complete the course requirements.
- There are no travel costs and no need for temporary relocation during the course.
- Study and coursework can be tailored to fit into the student's lifestyle or work schedule.
- Students with experience in the industry can fill gaps in their knowledge base at their own pace.
- The web-based program format allows students to interact with each other.
- Students earn industry certificates.

Benefits of the program to on-campus students

- Other related instruction classes (i.e. human relations, communication and computation) can be attended face-to-face if desired.
- The OPE instructor is available for face-to-face consultation and can provide additional support if needed.
- Computers, tools and equipment necessary to complete course and shop work are all available in the OPE facility on campus.
- Students earn industry certificates.

Benefits of the program to employers

- Employees new to the industry will have flexibility to work while they complete the requirements of the program.
- Experienced employees will be able to increase their knowledge base without leaving the area or their job for a significant period of time.
- Employees will gain valuable computer skills that will translate to all areas of shop operation.
- Employees will earn industry certificates and have access to the most current information.
- Better fundamental knowledge leads to fewer comebacks and greater customer satisfaction.

For further information, make contact:

Toll Free: 1.877.992.9922 • Direct: 509.527.3673

george.klein@wwcc.edu • Web: www.wwcc.edu/outdoorpower



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