

OPERATING ENGINEER

Nature of the Work

Operating Engineers are the people who operate and maintain various types of power driven construction machines, such as bulldozers, cranes, pumps, pile drivers, asphalt and concrete plants, derricks, rollers, graders, pavers, and tractors which dig, scrape and move great amounts of earth and hoist building materials. Some machines require the operators to turn valves, adjust hand wheels and press pedals to operate the machines and control the attachments. Other machines, such as cranes, require the constant use of both hands and both feet. Operating Engineers may also be required to service their machines and move the machines from one construction site to another.

Working Conditions

Operating Engineers should enjoy working with machines and equipment and be mechanically inclined. They must be able to do routine, repetitive work and work either as a team on large projects or alone. They should be able to withstand the jolting and vibration of the machines and must have an interest in and the ability to learn correct methods of handling the powerful equipment in a safe manner. The job demands good eyesight, muscular coordination and depth perception.

All work is performed in the open, except for a few machines equipped with enclosed cabs. Earth excavating and grading equipment operators and road building equipment operators generally work from early spring until the fall freeze and shut down only when it rains. The work might be dusty and dirty and they may have to travel long distances to work.

Admission Requirements of Operating Engineers Construction Career Center

- Application
- Age – Not less than 18 years of age
- Drug Test
- High School Transcripts/GED Certificate if did not graduate
- Valid Michigan Driver's License
- Military Service Record of honorable discharge (if applicable)
- US Citizen or Legal Emigrated Alien
- Reliable Transportation
- Physically able to perform the essential functions of the position

Terms of Training

- Heavy Equipment Operator Length of Apprenticeship –Minimum of 3 years or six thousand hours
- Heavy Equipment Technician Length of Apprenticeship – Minimum of 4 years or eight thousand hours
- Minimum hours of related training / classroom instruction – two hundred hours each year
- Length of probationary period – 6 months and one thousand hours

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All applicants are afforded equal opportunity without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age or disability.