

PCSS Post Secondary Spotlight

So, you want to be a...



Powerline Technician

Powerline technicians construct, maintain and repair overhead and underground electrical power transmission and distribution systems.

In general, powerline technicians:

Erect and maintain steel, wood or concrete poles, towers and guy wires; Install, maintain and repair overhead and underground power lines and cables, insulators, conductors, lightning arrestors, switches, transformers, street lighting and other associated equipment; Work with various types of heavy equipment including ariel booms, diggers (RDB), backhoes, trackhoes, nodwells, tension stringing equipment, and skid steers, and splice, solder and insulate conductors and related wiring to connect power distribution and transmission networks.

When there is a power disturbance, failure, or storm damage, powerline technicians locate the source of the problem, and replace or repair defective power lines and accessories. They use wiring diagrams, voltage indicating devices, and other electrical-testing instruments to identify defective automatic sectionalizing devices, circuit breakers, fuses, voltage regulators, transformers, switches, relays, or wiring. The power lines may be de-energized and grounded, or may remain energized. Live-line maintenance techniques are used on energized power lines. The hazards of working with energized power lines are reduced by use of special equipment and training with safe work practices and procedures.

Average Salary
\$105,237.00
Per Year

Average Wage
\$49.55
Per Hour

At NAIT we've been training power electricians since the mid-1970s

We're here to teach you everything you need to know.

Hands-on, industry-relevant training

Classroom and study hours

Students can expect to spend, on average, 30 hours per week in classrooms and labs.

Is this program for you?

Powerline technician work is most rewarding for those who enjoy working outdoors in all weather conditions and developing specialized skills at varied and challenging tasks. To be successful in the trade, powerline technicians need:

- the ability to lift heavy objects weighing in excess of 25 kilograms
- good physical coordination and manual dexterity
- mechanical ability
- good hearing and colour vision
- the ability to work at heights and in varying extreme climates
- the ability to work as a member of a team and adapt to changing tasks and locations

Minimum

Requirements:

English 20-2

Math 20-3

Science 10

Recommended Path:

English 30-2 Math 30-3 Physics

30 OR Chemistry 30 OR Science

30 Related Career and

Technology Studies (CTS) courses

<https://tradesecrets.alberta.ca/trades-in-alberta/profiles/021/>

<https://www.nait.ca/programs/powerline-technician?term=1-winter&intake=&overviewtabs=what-you-will-learn>

<https://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo/occupations-in-alberta/occupation-profiles/powerline-technician/>