The Process Technology Program was developed at Los Medanos College in response to requests from the chemical and refining industries in Contra Costa County. The industries are facing a serious shortage of a trained workforce, given the large number of baby boomer retirements. This is the ideal time to get trained for a high skill-high wage career opportunity in the chemical, refining, oil and gas production/refining, power generation, water, waste management, food, and related manufacturing industries.

“Process technicians” are skilled plant operators. To run a plant, they require excellent math and communication skills, “people skills” and technical training in process technology. The curriculum is a combination of hands-on labs, classroom lecture and site visits.

If you are interested in a starting salary between $45,000 - $65,000; which in 5 years will be between $70,000 - $100,000 annually (with overtime); if you are interested in a career and not just a job; if you are a committed person with an excellent work ethic, this is the industry for you! Join us to launch your career!

www.losmedanos.edu
1. How much does the program cost?
The enrollment fee per unit of credit is $20, as of Fall 2008, for California residents. Non-California-residents should contact the Admissions Office for the fees. Textbooks for each course will need to be purchased. The LMC bookstore will stock the books for each course immediately before each course begins. Parking for each semester is $35. Scholarships are available for those in financial need.

2. How long does it take to complete the program?
You can determine your own pace for completing the certificate or the degree. The Certificate of Achievement can be completed in 3-4 semesters. The AS Degree can be completed in 2 to 2.5 years by taking some courses during the summer.

3. What if I already have an AS/AA degree or a BA degree, can I automatically get an AS Degree in PTEC?
If you already have an AS/AA or a higher degree, you may choose to only complete a Certificate of Achievement in PTEC at LMC.

If you choose the path of an LMC AS degree in PTEC, your previous degree will need to be evaluated by LMC since degree requirements are not identical in different institutions. Begin by asking your previous institution to mail your “Official Transcript” to the LMC Office of Admissions and Records (A&R). The LMC A&R Office will evaluate your transcript for equivalency. This will take a few weeks, so plan early! Next, make an appointment to meet an LMC counselor to determine if you need to take some additional courses at LMC to get “our” AS degree. Finally, take the “missing” courses to complete the LMC AS degree requirements.

4. Are the PTEC courses transferable to a 4-year university?
No, the PTEC courses are non-transferable, occupational courses. General Education courses in the program such as Math, Chemistry and Physics are transferable.

5. Does the college provide employment assistance?
Yes. The PTEC program at the college has close ties with the local industry. Graduates from the PTEC program will be job ready for positions in the petrochemical industry, food manufacture, water sanitation, waste disposal and other industries that employ plant operators. The program faculty and the LMC employment center will provide you with employment leads.

6. How does the LMC PTEC program compare with other PTEC programs?
We are the only PTEC program in Northern California. There are two more programs in Southern California. The majority of the PTEC training programs are in Texas and Louisiana.

The curriculum adopted by Los Medanos College was developed by the well-known Center for the Advancement for Process Technology (CAPT) in Texas. This curriculum was adapted to the local industry needs in California, in consultation with the PTEC program advisory board. The program advisory board is very active and is comprised of seasoned and senior industry professionals. State-of-the-art simulation software is used in the computer lab. Our hands-on lab teaches essential skills required by the industry. Site visits and lab classes are coordinated by the program faculty in collaboration with local industry. All the faculty in the program are experienced in the industry and work in the industry.

For More Information:
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The LMC counselors are also available for assistance in identifying general aptitude and interests for PTEC, as well as to determine the General Education Requirements to complete the Associate Degree in Process Technology.

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