

BIOMEDICAL CLINICAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN, ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

The student that begins the program in the occupational certificate will start to build a foundation for developing an understanding in medical equipment, computer, and electronics operation and repair. The next two certificates (certificate of technology and the level 2 certificate) build upon these foundation classes with more specialized biomedical equipment classes to provide the student with more theoretical and practical industry expertise and the chance for an internship. All of these certificates are stackable and lead directly to the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree. Some students with previous biomedical equipment repair experience can enter the workplace with the certificates while students with no previous experience are encouraged to complete the AAS degree.



Information

The College designed the Biomedical Clinical Equipment Technician curriculum to provide basic training for students to enter and/or advance in the occupations associated with medical equipment maintenance and repair. A biomedical clinical equipment technician must possess the skills necessary to repair and replace parts on medical equipment, test and calibrate equipment, perform and record preventative maintenance, procure and track inventory, and facilitate training sessions on the equipment. A graduate in this program will gain the theoretical knowledge needed to understand the equipment as well as the practical, hands-on skills to operate and repair the equipment.

Employment of medical equipment repairers is projected to grow 31 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. Greater demand for health care services and the use of increasingly complex medical equipment will drive this employment growth. Those who have associate degrees in biomedical equipment technology should have the best job opportunities. Biomedical clinical equipment repair technicians are most commonly employed by hospitals or clinics, private companies, and the military. Biomedical clinical equipment repair technicians must be able to interact with health care professionals, administrators, patients, and vendors to perform their jobs. Although some medical equipment repairers are trained to fix a variety of equipment, others specialize in repairing one or a small number of machines. For less complicated equipment, such as electric hospital beds, workers make repairs as needed. Students can become a Certified Biomedical Equipment Repair Technician (CBET) through the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) by sitting for the exam administered by the International Certification Commission (ICC). AAMI also offers additional credentials. Eligibility requirements vary depending on the level of education and work experience. Once students have completed an associate degree in Biomedical Clinical Equipment Technology and gained two years of work experience in the field, they are eligible for certification.

As with most technology, advances in medical equipment are constantly evolving. Because of this, technicians are required to complete continuing education activities to keep their skills and equipment knowledge up to date.