**Program Information**

If you have a technical mind, you are in luck. Houston is home to the largest petrochemical and refining complex in the nation, and the demand for skilled process technicians continues to grow! Our graduates enter the workforce with the necessary skills that are highly prized by companies that continually hire students directly out of our program.

The San Jacinto College Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in process technology:

- Prepares students to become plant operators responsible for equipment, the hazards of the chemicals and the chemistry and physics involved in process technology;
- Teaches students to read piping and instrumentation diagrams (P&IDs), identify and troubleshoot equipment, operate simulators and as a capstone course, run the Glycol Distillation Unit which is PTAC 2438 - Process Technology III - Operations;
- Is praised by area industry for the quality of students graduating from the program as we are endorsed by the North American Process Technology Alliance (NAPTA); and
- The Process Technology program has participated and won the NAPTA National Troubleshooting Competition Championship three years in a row since we entered in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

**Career Opportunities**

Graduates of the San Jacinto College process technology program have the opportunity to work in:

- Chemical plants,
- Refineries,
- Wastewater treatment plants,
- Canneries,
- Pharmaceutical plants,
- Paper mills,
- Terminals,
- Pipelines, and
- Fuel storage depots.

**Earning Potential**

Chemical Plant and System Operators median salary: $70,508 per year

**Source:** TexasWages.com (http://texaswages.com), Gulf Coast region, 2017

**For more information, contact:**

Program Director - 281-998-6150, x1495
Department Chair - 281-478-2712

**Campus**

Central Campus

**Information**

The process technology department is a direct link to the largest industry in the greater Houston area and the Texas Gulf Coast region. In the past very little formal training was required prior to taking a job in the chemical process industry. However, companies in the Houston area now require more education for their entry-level technicians and are looking to community college graduates to meet those needs.

Students train in state-of-the-art process laboratory facilities similar to area refining and chemical plant environments. The College facility was built in cooperation with area petrochemical companies. San Jacinto College works closely with industry as a member of the North American Process Technology Alliance (NAPTA) to maintain a curricula reflecting current technology standards.

Completion of the process technology curriculum can provide students with the technical skills required for entry-level positions as process technicians in petrochemical and related industries.

A Level II Certificate of Technology (COT) in process technology is still accepted by most of industry; however, several industries have indicated they will hire only graduates with the Associate of Applied Science degree (AAS). Future trends indicate that most of the petrochemical industry technicians will be required to have an AAS degree. Students who earn qualifications to be in the chemical lab technician specialty degree program after obtaining their AAS will sign up to pursue the Enhanced Skills Certificate (ESC). The student will then have the advantage of earning qualifications for being hired into either the operations division or laboratory department of a process plant because the ESC will make the student more marketable.

**Enhanced Skills Certificate**

The Enhanced Skills Certificate in Process Technology Chemical Technician is designed for students who have completed the Process Technology Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree.

**Plan of Study**

**Central Campus**

EPROT-CT

Please see the Process Technology, Associate of Applied Science (AAS) (https://publications.sanjac.edu/areas-study/construction-industry-manufacturing-transportation/process-technology-aas) page for more information.
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