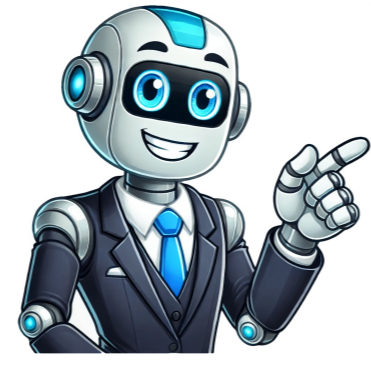


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An associate degree in engineering is a two-year degree that provides the basic education needed to work as an engineering technician. Engineering techs assist engineers in a variety of ways. The duties, as well as potential salaries for a 2-year engineering degree, depend largely on the engineering specialty chosen for the associate degree. Further, entry-level engineering jobs pay in accordance with the employer and location.  
Mechanical engineering techs assist mechanical engineers in the design, development and manufacture of equipment, products, processes or machinery. Duties vary, but they may include data analysis, preparing cost estimates, creating computer models or preparing reports.  
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According to the May 2019 data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the mean annual wage for mechanical engineering techs was \$59,160. Ten percent earned \$88,640 or more per year, but 10 percent earned no more than \$35,140. The highest-paying employers were equipment and supplies merchant wholesalers, which reported an annual mean wage of \$89,680 and in audio and video equipment manufacturing, where the mean wage for mechanical engineering techs was \$78,320.  
New Mexico, Louisiana and Mississippi were the best-paying states, with mean wages of \$77,780, \$76,790 and \$74,190 respectively. The BLS expects growth for this occupation to be 3 percent during the decade ending in 2020, a rate that is slightly lower than average.  
Electrical and electronic engineering techs assist engineers with developing, designing and testing electronic equipment, such as computers, navigational devices, cell phones and medical monitoring equipment. Some techs work in quality control or product evaluation. According to the BLS, the mean wage for electrical techs in May 2019 was \$66,240 annually. The top 10 percent earned at least \$96,690, and the bottom 10 percent earned \$39,190 or less.  
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The two best-paying employers of associate degree in engineering jobs were distributors of natural gas and the federal government, where the mean wage was \$87,300 and \$85,840, respectively. Mean wages were highest in the Vermont at \$85,600, followed by Alaska at \$83,310 and the District of Columbia at \$81,740. This occupation will see little change between 2019 and 2029, according to the BLS, with a predicted growth of only 2 percent.  
Civil engineers design infrastructure projects, such as highways, utility systems and bridges, and civil engineering technicians help them do it. Techs may help with computer-designed plans, conduct site inspections or test materials to ensure they meet specifications. The BLS reported an annual mean salary of \$55,460 for civil engineering techs in May 2019. The lowest-paid 10 percent earned \$33,860 or less, and the top-paid 10 percent earned \$80,650 or more.  
The best-paying industries were engine, turbine and power transmission equipment manufacturers and the federal government, where the mean wages were \$94,950 and \$77,770, respectively. The three best-paying states were the District of Columbia, Connecticut and California with respective mean wages of \$85,830, \$70,330 and \$67,300 annually. The BLS expects a 3 percent growth rate for civil engineering techs between 2019 and 2029, which is near the national average of 4 percent.  
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Environmental engineering techs help environmental engineers execute their plans. They sometimes collect samples to test for pollution, operate equipment used to clean up or prevent damage to the environment or modify equipment. As of May 2019, environmental engineering technology degree jobs paid a mean wage of \$54,740 annually, according to the BLS. The lowest-paid 10 percent earned no more than \$32,610, but the top-paid 10 percent earned at least \$82,930.  
The top-paying employers were electric power companies and aerospace manufacturers, with respective mean wages of \$83,230 and \$82,250 annually. Washington was the top-paying state, with an annual mean wage of \$73,660. In Maine, techs received a mean wage of \$65,500, and in Alaska, the mean wage was \$63,840. The BLS expects the occupation to see a 7 percent increase in employment by 2020, which is higher than the national projection of 4 percent for all combined occupations.  
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By Esa Landicho  
What does an Associate of Science in Mechanical Engineering deal with? An associate of science in mechanical engineering deals with machine tools, machine design, engineering materials, and electrical circuits. A lot of the coursework is related to science, engineering, and math disciplines. The coursework prepares students for assisting mechanical engineers and architects in the future. Is there a mechanical engineering associate degree online? Yes, there is a mechanical engineering associate degree online. For instance, Lone Star College offers students the option to take a degree online. Other schools also offer a hybrid option for students. Can I get an Associate Degree in Mechanical Engineering for free? No, you can't get an Associate Degree in Mechanical Engineering for free. There's always a cost for every credit you'll take. However, that doesn't mean there are no ways to reduce your educational expenses. Schools often offer financial aid to students. You just have to check the requirements and application process.  
Esa Landicho  
Content Writer at Career Karma  
Esa is a content writer who has extensive experience talking to students about their careers and life choices. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling. [read more about the author](#)  
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