

# COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVING

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## TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE

The Commercial Truck Driving certificate program prepares students for careers in commercial truck driving. Learning opportunities develop the academic, technical, and professional knowledge and skills students need for job acquisition, retention, and advancement. The program emphasizes the fundamentals of commercial truck driving and the basic and advanced commercial truck driving operations to develop students' driving skills. Students must complete at least 44 hours of individual behind-the-wheel instructional driving time. They must spend at least 12 hours developing their driving skills on the driving range and at least 12 hours on the highway. Students may complete the remaining 20 hours in any combination of driving range and highway driving time. Classes for this program are currently offered during evening hours in order to meet student needs and interests.

State law requires that instructors must be in the vehicle whenever students operate trucks on public roads. Applicants to this program do not need commercial driver learner permits to gain admission to this program. Students must obtain their learner permits by the end of the second week of their first quarter of enrollment; otherwise, they will not be eligible to complete the driving component of the program. Students are responsible for the cost of the learner permits.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Commercial Truck Driving graduates may be self-employed or gain employment with local, regional, or national trucking firms. The work can range from making local deliveries to traveling from coast to coast. Most truck drivers find employment in large metropolitan areas where major trucking, retail, and wholesale companies have distribution outlets. Some drivers work in rural areas providing specialized services such as delivering for the granite, poultry, and timber industries. Commercial truck drivers must be 21 years old in order to operate a commercial vehicle in interstate transportation. Program graduates who are under the age of 21 may drive a commercial truck only in Georgia; therefore, employment opportunities may be limited until graduates reach the age of 21. Program applicants must sign a statement as part of the admissions process acknowledging that they understand these age restrictions and limitations.

## PROGRAM EXPENSES

The recent reauthorization of the Higher Education Act requires all colleges and universities to notify students and prospective students of all program costs for which they will be responsible. Students will be responsible for the following expenses:

- Quarterly tuition (\$292 per credit hour)
- Quarterly student activity fees (\$16)
- Quarterly registration fee (\$26)
- Quarterly accident insurance fee (\$4)
- Quarterly instructional and technology supply fee (\$35)

- Department of Transportation Physical (Approximately \$65)
- Learner Driving Permit (\$35)
- Fuel Surcharge (\$130)
- NIDA-5 Drug Screen (Approximately \$50)
- Seven-year motor vehicle report (\$8)
- Textbooks (Approximately \$100 for entire program)

The expenses are based on costs in effect at the time this catalog was published. Prices are subject to change.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Athens Technical College offers this program only at its Elbert County Campus. Applicants in this program need to contact that office at (706) 213-2100 to obtain an admissions application packet.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old, and they must submit the following information to the Student Affairs Office at the Elbert County Campus:

- a. Completed and signed application for admission and a \$20 nonrefundable application fee;
- b. Completed and signed Acknowledgement of Understanding forms, which cover the age and DUI restrictions acknowledgements;
- c. Valid COMPASS, ASSET, SAT, or ACT test scores (see *ASSET and COMPASS Placement Tests*); and
- d. An official seven-year motor vehicle report.

The Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) regulates commercial driver licensing and requires a Department of Transportation (DOT) physical and drug test prior to the issuance of a commercial driver's license (CDL) or learner permit. Students must have a learner permit to begin the on-road driving component of this program. Prior to enrolling in the first class, students must provide documentation of having passed a DOT physical examination within two years of the anticipated date of enrollment in the program and a NIDA 5 Drug Screen within 10 business days of the first day of class. FMCSA regulations also stipulate that students must complete random drug tests while enrolled in this program. Students are responsible for the cost of all drug screenings.

Applicants should note that the seven-year motor vehicle report must contain no more than eight current points, no more than five points in a previous single year, and no more than four moving violations on the Georgia Violator Scale. Applicants cannot have any DUI, open container, or controlled substance or drug violations within the past five years of the anticipated date of enrollment in the program. Program applicants must submit signed forms indicating that they understand the employment limitations associated with DUI, open container, or controlled substance or drug violations. Furthermore, applicants are responsible for the cost of the seven-year vehicle report.

**COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVING CURRICULUM OUTLINE**  
*Technical Certificate Program (Major Code: TU01)*  
*Credit Required for Completion: 15 quarter credit hours*

			<b>Credits</b>
<b>Technical Certificate</b>			<b>15</b>
CTD	101	Fundamentals of Commercial Truck Driving	5
CTD	102	Basic Operations	5
CTD	103	Advanced Operations	
	OR		5
CTD	104	Internship	

**COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVING**

*Department Code: CTD*

**CTD 101**

**Fundamentals of Commercial Truck Driving (5-0-5)**

*Banner Title: Truck Driving Fundamentals*

This course is an introduction to the trucking industry, federal and state regulations, records and forms, industrial relations, and other non-driving activities. This course emphasizes safety, which will continue throughout the program.

*Prerequisite: Provisional admission*

*Offered quarterly (evening classes)*

**CTD 102**

**Basic Operations (3-5-5)**

*Banner Title: Basic Operations*

This course focuses on familiarizing students with truck instruments and controls and on performing the basic maneuvers required to drive safely in a controlled environment. In addition, students acquire skills in operating a tractor trailer through clearance maneuvers, backing, turning, parallel parking and basic coupling and uncoupling skills.

*Prerequisite: CTD 101*

*Offered quarterly (evening classes)*

**CTD 103**

**Advanced Operations (1-13-5)**

*Banner Title: Advanced Operations*

This course focuses on developing driving skills under actual road conditions. The classroom part of the course stresses following safe operating practices. On the road, instructors integrate safe operating practices into the development of driving skills. Students drive a total of 12 hours to meet the requirements of this course. In addition, students must have a minimum program total of 44 hours of behind-the-wheel instructional time in any combination (with CTD 102) of range and street or road driving. State law requires that instructors must be present in the truck while students operate commercial vehicles on public roads.

*Prerequisite: CTD 102*

*Offered quarterly (evening classes)*

**CTD 104**

**Internship (0-15-5)**

*Banner Title: Internship*

This course provides students with opportunities to complete their training with a company. The internship takes the place of CTD 103-Advanced Operations. Working closely with the school, a company provides the advanced training that focuses on developing driving skills. Students drive a total of 12 hours to meet the requirements of this course. In addition, students must have a minimum program total of 44 hours of behind-the-wheel instructional time in any combination (with CTD 102) of range and street or road driving. State law requires that instructors must be present in the truck while students operate commercial vehicles on public roads.

*Prerequisite: CTD 102*

*Offered quarterly (evening classes)*