



Explore a Career as a

CNC OPERATOR OR PROGRAMMER

Target Occupation Profile

What do CNC Operators and Programmers do?

CNC operators, also known as computer-controlled machine tool operators, and CNC programmers, also known as computer numerically controlled machine tool programmers, work with CNC machines to cut and shape metal, plastic, or glass to form a finished part. CNC programmers plot out, step-by-step, the way a machine will do its job of making auto, machine, or other parts to meet extremely exact standards. Once the programming is done, CNC operators step in to keep an eye on the machine all the way through the manufacturing process. These machines are most commonly used in metalworking industries where precision is imperative, because computers can be more accurate than humans in this work.

CNC Operators and Programmers are in demand in Cook County!

Cook County employment of CNC operators and programmers is expected to increase through the year 2020.

Training & Educational Opportunities

You will have plenty of employment opportunities as a CNC operator or programmer, but first you will have to complete training through an apprenticeship program or on the job. By completing courses in computer programming and gaining a working knowledge of the properties of metals and plastics, you will learn the skills necessary to get a job as a CNC operator and/or programmer.

As a CNC Operator or Programmer you will:

- Analyze job orders, drawings, blueprints, specifications and printed circuit board pattern films
- Design data to calculate dimensions, tools selection, machine speeds and feed rate
- Mount, install, align and secure tools, attachments, fixtures and workpieces on machines
- Transfer commands from servers to computer numerical control (CNC) modules

CNC Operator or Programmer

Training Providers

There are many training providers available in Cook County to supply you with the training you need for a career as a CNC Operator or Programmer.

To access a list of training providers for these occupations and many more, please visit Illinoisworknet.com and select the 'Training and Credentials' menu option to view 'WIOA Approved Training Programs.'



Types of Employers

There are many types of employers looking to hire CNC operators and programmers in Cook County, including:

- Machine shops
- Metalworking machinery manufacturers
- Precision parts manufacturing companies

Wages & Openings

CNC Operator and Programmer Employment Data for Cook County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$14.84
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$22.75
Average Annual Job Openings Cook County	64
Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	197

*Source: Emsi, 2017.2

Opportunities

After you receive your certificate as a CNC operator or programmer, you will have many opportunities for advancement and specialization. Some opportunities include:

- Engineering Technician
- Manufacturing Engineer
- Quality Control Specialist
- Shop Supervisor



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