

# Heavy Equipment Operator

Jackson Center

2 Year Program

Brian Tart

**T**he Heavy Equipment Operator Program (HEOP) is a program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills required for the operation of heavy equipment in accordance with industry standards. The students will be able to recognize the technical competencies in the major classifications of heavy equipment. Students will be engaged in industry relevant, hands-on instruction that is aligned with the National Center for Construction Education Research (NCCER) Heavy Equipment Operations curriculum. Skills will be further developed through the use of state of the art in-class simulators and authentic learning opportunities in which students will operate actual machinery.

## Related Job Titles

Operating Engineer  
Surfacing Equipment Operator  
Tamping Equipment Operator  
Pile Driver Operator

## Preferred Skills for Career Field:

- Clean and maintain equipment, making basic repairs as necessary
- Report malfunctioning equipment to supervisors
- Move levers, push pedals, or turn valves to drive and maneuver equipment
- Coordinate machine actions with crew members using hand or audio signals
- Work with machines and tools
- Work in all types of weather
- Work flexible schedules
- Work with limited supervision
- Follow directions

## Career Ladder

Most entrants in this career begin as apprentices until they have enough experience to become full-time heavy equipment operators. There is an advantage to knowing how to repair diesel machinery as well.

## Continuing Education

Ocean County Vocational Technical School  
Apprenticeship Program  
Mercer County College  
Lincoln Technical Institute  
Pennco Technical Institute  
University of Northwestern Ohio

**Upon successful completion of this two-year program, students will receive advanced standing in the OCVTS Apprenticeship program.**