ThinkBIG Program

Offered By:

MacAllister Machinery Co., Inc.  
(A Caterpillar Dealership)

&

Owens Community College
INTRODUCTION

The Owens/Caterpillar ThinkBIG Program is an Associate of Applied Science Degree (A.A.S.). This is designed to develop technically competent and professional construction equipment service technicians. Caterpillar Dealers in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana sponsor the program and Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio administers and operates the program.

Students receive state-of-the-art technical training in Caterpillar equipment through a combination of classroom instruction, hands-on laboratory instruction, and supervised occupational work experience at a Caterpillar dealership.

Classroom and laboratory instruction at Owens covers the basics of each subject using the latest construction equipment as training aids. At the dealership, work experience is structured to relate to the most recent classroom subjects covered at Owens.

Dealers are responsible for providing students with training-related employment during the work experience periods. Students are responsible for tuition, fees, textbook costs, and their miscellaneous expenses.

Students are required to obtain sponsorship from an authorized Caterpillar dealership.

Sponsoring a student means that a dealership agrees to pay a student for work performed in the dealership while the student is in the program. The work experience should be no less than thirty-two weeks during the two-year training period. A dealership can discontinue the sponsorship at any time.
Owens Community College
& Caterpillar ThinkBIG Program

In just two years, you will gain knowledge and experience through a unique college industry partnership. As a result of the partnership between CAT (Caterpillar, Inc.) and Owens Community College, you will be able to be in a rewarding career. As part of the ThinkBIG Program, you'll receive specialized hands-on training in the dynamic field of construction technology. You will take classes on how the most modern diagnostic tools and procedures are used to service the latest Caterpillar equipment. As a student, you will build your technical expertise through courses and laboratories in power trains, electronics, fuel systems, air conditioning, and engine repairs from expert instructors utilizing equipment in the classroom.

The 2023 cost of attendance is approximately $15,000 - $18,000 plus room and board. The tuition may be reimbursed depending upon grades.

Each student is required to work for MacAllister Machinery the summer before the fall semester. You will be mentored and coached by a skilled and experienced diesel technician from MacAllister Machinery.

The requirements for the program are:

1. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent
2. A transcript of grades with minimum GPA 2.5
3. Good attendance record
4. 300-word statement of career goals
5. Three written references from teachers, coaches, counselors, or former employers
6. Acceptable threshold score on a mechanical aptitude test AND acceptable score on Accuplacer test or ACT
7. Acceptable medical exam and drug screen
**PROJECTED COMPENSATION PROGRESS**

- Ice Program while still in high school: $10.50
- Graduation from High School: $15.00
- After first year at college:
  - 3.0 to 4.0 GPA: $16.00
  - Below 3.0 GPA: $15.50
- *After graduation from college:
  - Level II: $19.66 to $27.79
  - Mid-Range Level II: $23.14

*Pay is dependent upon grades and GPA after graduation

**EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND BENEFIT SUMMARY**

**Annual Compensation Average**

- Base Hourly Pay Rate: $18.00
- Annual Compensation: $39,208 – Based on 40 hrs./week for 52 weeks

**Employee Benefits**

- Medical & Life Insurance Contribution: $2,450 – Maximum cafeteria plan
- Personal Leave & Vacation Days: $1,508 – 10 vacation days after 2 years (5 after 1)
  $754.00 – 5 personal leave days annually
- Holidays: $1,206.40 – 8 paid holidays
- 401k Company Match: $1,176.24 – based on 6% employee contribution
- Profit Sharing Contribution: $784.16 – 2% of compensation based on average profit sharing allocation

**Total Employee Benefits**: $7,968

Employee Benefits represent additional income per month of $638.93

*(Benefits package takes effect upon graduation from the program)*
PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Owens/Caterpillar ThinkBIG Program is a partnership between Caterpillar, Owens Community College, participating Caterpillar dealerships, and participating students. The following responsibilities are:

**Owens Community College**
- Maintain a current curriculum approved by Caterpillar representatives
- Provide classroom and laboratory facilities
- Provide staff and instructors; staff will act as liaison between Owens and Caterpillar
- Provide equipment and tools
- Promote, advertise, and recruit qualified students
- Test, interview, and screen students
- Assist dealers with student selection
- Maintain all student records
- Provide academic, financial aid, and counseling services and ads
- Visit students during supervised occupational work experiences to assure attainment of work experience competencies
- Furnish program information to dealers, students, and general public when requested
- Provide an Associate of Applied Science degree

**Caterpillar Incorporated**
- Encourage dealer cooperation and support
- Provide training for the teaching staff on Caterpillar equipment
- Assist Owens in obtaining Caterpillar materials for training (manuals, computer service, reference, technical publications, etc.)
- Monitor the Caterpillar ThinkBIG at Owens to ensure success
- Promote the program and assist with student recruitment for the program

**Caterpillar Dealership (MacAllister Machinery Co.)**
- Interview and select a student to sponsor
- Appoint an in-dealership coordinator or supervisor to work with Owens staff in planning and monitoring the supervised occupational work experience
- Pay trainee’s wages, commensurate with experience during periods of supervised occupational work
- Promote the program and assist with recruitment of students for the program

**Student**
- Must be a high school graduate or GED
- Apply for admission to Owens Community College
- Maintain Owens and Caterpillar standards and adhere to academic policies
- Participate in all learning activities and experiences at scheduled times
- Provide MacAllister with responsible and productive employment
- Obtain and maintain a Caterpillar Dealership sponsor
- Pay for program, costs, tuition, fees, books, and tools
COURSES

For a full list of classes and semester schedule, please visit the Owens Caterpillar Dealer Service Technician, AAS webpage (www.owens.edu/cat/)

Program coursework is comprehensive, specialized, and well-rounded.

At Owens, you will take courses in a variety of areas such as:

- Algebra
- CAT Service
- Computer Technology
- Diagnostics
- Electrical Systems
- Hydraulics
- Industrial Physics
- Powertrain
- Undercarriage
- Welding
- Engines
- English
TYPICAL ANNUAL STUDENT HOUSING COSTS ESTIMATED

Owens Community College has no college-owned housing available. Very nice, privately owned housing is available to students who require it. The following is an estimate of typical student housing costs. Students will live in dorm style living with private bedrooms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Administrative Fees</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1 Tuition + Lab Fees</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2 Tuition + Lab Fees</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 3 Tuition + Lab Fees</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 4 Tuition + Lab Fees</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 5 Tuition + Lab Fees</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Costs ($300/mo)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-School Internship (8 Weeks @ $15/00/hr)</td>
<td>4,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 Internship (~20 Weeks @ $15/00/hr)</td>
<td>22,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2 Internship (~20 Weeks @ $16/00/hr)</td>
<td>22,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>59,600.00</td>
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</tbody>
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Rent: Approximately $550 per month (including utilities and appliances)

**Housing is the responsibility of the student, not the dealership or college.**

For additional information on student housing, please visit Owens Lake Commons at: [Home - Choice Properties](#)

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Financial Aid

Many financial aid programs are available at Owens Community College. The programs are administered by the Office of Financial Aid under policies established by federal and state government guidelines, with the exception of scholarships.

The types of aid that are included in Financial Aid are:

- **Grants** are need-based financial aid from the federal and state government. They do not require repayment. Available grant programs include the Federal Pell Grant, the Federal Competitiveness Grant, the Federal SEOG grant, the Ohio College Opportunity Grant, and the Ohio Instructional Grant.
- **Loans** are financial aid that must be repaid. Available loan programs include the Federal Stafford Loan, the Federal Parent PLUS Loan and the Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program (NEALP) Loan. Private (or “alternative”) loans are also available.
- **Federal Work Study** is a form of financial aid paid to a student as wages from working.
- **Scholarships** are funds provided by the college or outside contributors to students based on criteria determined by the donor.
- **Additional Resources** include assistance from public agencies. Additional financial aid information and contact information is also available.

If you have any questions regarding Financial Aid, please contact Owens College at (567) 661-7343.

How to Apply for Financial Aid

Students must submit new financial aid applications for each academic year. Forms are available online beginning January 1 for the upcoming year and should be submitted as soon as possible. Students and parents can sign the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) electronically using their Department of Education PIN. The PIN can be obtained as part of the FAFSA application or by requesting one at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov).

For application requirements and deadlines, student transfers information, and next steps, please visit: [Financial Aid - Owens Community College](#)
HISTORY OF MACALLISTER MACHINERY

MacAllister Machinery Company began in 1945 by E.W. MacAllister. It is currently operated by the third generation, Chris MacAllister. We have since grown to over 15 locations in Indiana and acquired the Michigan CAT dealership in 2011.

MacAllister Machinery is in the business of servicing, renting and selling construction equipment. A few of the equipment we deal with are scrapers, agricultural equipment, graders, dozers, excavators, backhoes, paving machinery, and engines for power trucks and generators. We also handle an extensive line of compact construction equipment (CCE) which include skid steer loaders, mini excavators, small wheel loaders, aggregate processing equipment, electric-combustion-powered aerial lifts, scissor, and telescopic articulating work platforms.

In Indiana, we are the largest dealer in our industry. We have become successful due to the excellence of the CAT account, hard work, business principles, and the employees who work at MacAllister Machinery. Therefore, we provide the best customer service to users in the construction, mining, agriculture, rental services, and maintenance fields.

MacAllister’s corporate office is located in Indianapolis.

The training locations for ThinkBIG are:

- Fort Wayne
- Indianapolis
- Lafayette
- Washington
- Terre Haute

The material in this packet is intended solely for information purposes. Changes may occur without prior notice. Owens Community College and MacAllister Machinery are committed to providing equal opportunities for all applicants without regard to their status as protected veterans or individuals with disabilities, and prohibit discrimination against all individuals based on their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
ThinkBIG Program Description

Are you exploring or debating what you will do after high school? Have you always been the mechanical type, fixing things and tearing things down to see how they work? It’s time you look into the Caterpillar ThinkBIG Program. A career as a CAT Dealer Service Technician can open doors to endless possibilities with hard work and an industry-leading education.

MacAllister Machinery and Owens Community College in Perrysburg, OH have paired together along with other area CAT Dealers to bring you Caterpillar’s ThinkBIG Program. Students will get Caterpillar exclusive training and education along with exciting hands-on dealer service shop experience. The ThinkBIG program has one goal – to produce high-caliber, specialized technicians, eager to hit the ground running as CAT Dealer Service Technicians.

The ThinkBIG Program consists of 5 semesters in which the students spend time at both the college campus as well as in their sponsoring branch’s service shop, applying what they have learned in the classroom, and getting paid at the same time. Did we mention that the students get paid while working in the service shops? They also have an opportunity to have all of, or a portion of their tuition paid for, depending on GPA. At the end of the 5 semesters, students will have earned an Associate’s Degree in Applied Science and ready to enter the world of Caterpillar Equipment.

As a CAT Dealer Service Technician, you’ll work on some of the most advanced and hardest working machines in the world. And don’t think that your capabilities will have you limited to only the construction industry. Your expertise will always be in demand in industries as varied as agriculture, logging and forestry, power generation, construction, marine, road building, earthmoving, material handling, trucking and transport, locomotive, and mining. You will build yourself into a highly skilled, technically trained, in-demand member of the worldwide CAT dealer network. As you develop the skills, experience and motivation, you will have opportunities to advance into new positions within MacAllister Machinery. Positions such as field service technician, shop supervisor, branch manager, parts department supervisor, and sales await you in the future should you choose to pursue them.

Requirements for ThinkBIG Program:

- 2.5 High School GPA minimum
- 10 or fewer days absent from school per year
- Be able to meet Owens College admission requirements
- Acceptable medical exam and drug screen
- Complete online employment application and submission of interview documents (listed below)

What’s Next?

Submit portfolio with the following information to MacAllister Recruiting Department by the LAST Friday in February

- 300 word essay on career goals
- 3 letters of reference (employer, counselor, education instructor, etc.)
- High School transcripts and attendance records
- Completed Accuplacer Test (College Placement Test) or ACT

Mail to:

Recruiting Team
6300 Southeastern Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46203 or email at careers@macallister.com

For more information, email the student’s information (name, mailing address, contact phone number, and email address) to careers@macallister.com.