DRAFTING TECHNOLOGY

Employment of drafters is expected to have little or no change compared to the average rate for all occupations through 2021. Drafters are beginning to break out of the traditional drafting role and do work traditionally performed by engineers and architects, thus also increasing demand for drafters. Industrial growth and increasingly complex design problems associated with new products and manufacturing processes will increase the demand for skilled drafting services. Opportunities should be best for individuals with at least 2 years of postsecondary training in a drafting program that provides strong technical skills, as well as considerable experience with CADD systems. CADD has increased the complexity of drafting applications while enhancing the productivity of drafters. It also has enhanced the nature of drafting by creating more possibilities for design and drafting. As technology continues to advance, employers will look for drafters with a strong background in fundamental drafting principles, a high level of technical sophistication, and the ability to apply their knowledge to a broader range of responsibilities. Employment of drafters remains highly concentrated in industries that are sensitive to cyclical changes in the economy, primarily manufacturing industries.

Employment Information

Greater Kansas City Area: In 2016, those in the drafting technology field held an estimated 1,629 jobs, with 1,701 jobs projected by 2021 (+4%) in the fifteen counties that make up the Kansas City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Of those, 832 were architectural and civil drafters (859 jobs projected, +3%); 318 were electrical and electronic drafters 349 jobs projected, (+10%); and 480 were mechanical drafters (494 projected, +3%). Altogether, approximately 72 openings are anticipated by 2021.

State: In Kansas, those in the drafting technology field held an estimated 2,041 jobs in 2016, with 2,109 jobs projected by 2021 (+3%). Of those, 784 were architectural and civil drafters (830 projected, +6%); 183 were electrical and electronic drafters (205 projected, +12%); and 1,074 were mechanical drafters (1,074 projected, +0%). All together 68 openings are anticipated due to the need for replacements.

National: About 218,797 jobs were held in the drafting technology field in 2016, with 218,862 jobs projected by 2021 (decrease less than -1%). Of those, 113,001 were architectural and civil drafters (112,088 projected, -1%); 35,026 were electrical and electronic drafters (36,416 projected, +4%), and 70,771 were mechanical drafters (70,358 projected, -1%).

September 2017
Salary Information

**Greater Kansas City Area:** Architectural and civil drafters employed in the Greater Kansas City area earned an average hourly wage of $23.97 in 2016. Additionally, electrical and electronic earned $28.45 per hour, and drafters mechanical drafters earned $23.43 per hour.

**State:** Architectural drafters in Kansas earned an average hourly wage of $22.56 in 2016. Additionally, electrical and electronic drafters earned $26.08 per hour and mechanical drafters earned $22.38 per hour.

**National:** Architectural and civil drafters working full-time earned an average hourly wage of $24.87 in 2016. Additionally, electrical and electronic drafters earned $29.54 per hour and mechanical drafters earned $26.22 per hour.

JCCC Placement and Salary Information

The JCCC Office of Institutional Research conducts a follow-up study of program completers one year after completion. Eighty-six percent of the graduates who responded to the follow-up study conducted during 2015-16, and were employed, were employed in a job related to their field and reported earning an average hourly wage of $16.91.

**Note:** Salary Information for Greater Kansas City, State, and National is based on EMSI 2016 third quarter data. JCCC information for career program completers is based on data supplied by respondents to follow-up studies and is not necessarily representative of all career program completers. Other sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics.