

# Certificate of Achievement in Heavy Equipment Operator Technician Level 1 and Level 2

## About the Program

**Program Goal:** Career

**GE Pattern(s):** None

**Program Code:** 07260.00CA

The Butte College Heavy Equipment Operator Program prepares students for entry-level employment in the construction, transportation, and agricultural industries through an immersive, hands-on training experience. Designed to be completed in one year, the program provides comprehensive instruction in heavy equipment operation, safety, jobsite communication, basic equipment maintenance, and industry best practices. Students gain practical skills through extensive field-based training that mirrors real-world work environments, including activities such as precision earthmoving, grade checking, interpreting construction plans, and coordinating multiple machine operations. Emphasis is placed on developing strong situational awareness, safe work habits, teamwork, problem-solving skills, and professional readiness. Students also learn fundamental diagnostic and repair procedures to support equipment functionality and reduce downtime on the jobsite. Graduates will be prepared for a variety of entry-level roles, including equipment operator, equipment technician, grade checker, and related support positions. The program is supported by robust industry partnerships with Operating Engineers Local 3, Caltrans, CAL FIRE, local and statewide contractors, and regional agricultural employers. These partnerships strengthen training opportunities and help connect graduates to a growing job market in construction, land development, public works, agriculture, and heavy equipment services.

## Program Learning Outcome(s):

Upon successful completion of the program, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the principles of operation and maintenance required to operate and support modern agricultural and industrial powered equipment.
2. Demonstrate the ability to safely and correctly maintain and operate a range of agricultural and industrial powered equipment.
3. Evaluate career opportunities, prospective employers, and skills necessary to achieve employment.

Required courses:		40.00
ITEC 55	Introduction to Industrial Trades	2
AET 10	Civil Surveying and Plan Reading	3.00
AET 15	Grade Setting	3.00
AET 20	Beginning Equipment Operation	6.00
AET 25	Advanced Equipment Operation	6.00
AET 35	Heavy Equipment Methods and Materials	3.00
AET 40	Heavy Truck and Equipment Systems	3.00
AET 45	Heavy Truck and Equipment Maintenance	3.00
AET 50	Safety and OSHA	3.00
AET 60	Underground and Specialized Machines	3.00
AET 75	Commercial Driver's License – Permit Preparation	3.00
WLD 18	Beginning Industrial Welding	2.00
		Total: 40.00

## Suggested Program Map

Required courses:		Units: 40.00
<b>Level 1</b>		19.00
ITEC 55	Introduction to Industrial Trades	2.00
AET 10	Civil Surveying and Plan Reading	3.00
AET 20	Beginning Equipment Operation	6.00
AET 40	Heavy Truck and Equipment Systems	3.00
AET 50	Safety and OSHA	3.00
WLD 18	Beginning Industrial Welding	2.00
<b>Level 2</b>		21.00
AET 15	Grade Setting	3.00
AET 25	Advanced Heavy Equipment Operation	6.00
AET 35	Heavy Equipment Methods and Materials	3.00
AET 40	Heavy Truck and Equipment Maintenance	3.00
AET 60	Underground and Specialized Machines	3.00
AET 75	Commercial Driver's License – Permit Preparation	3.00
		Total: 40.00