

GET TO

THE POLK STATE COLLEGE **CAREER GUIDE**

WORK!

POLK STATE

WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

The proof of what Polk State College can do for its future students is in what it's done every day for the past 50 years: change lives.

Since it began in 1964, Polk State College has worked closely with area employers, developing each of its degree programs to ensure that its graduates are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to excel in the workforce.

And excel in the workforce they have, going on to become leaders in boardrooms and emergency rooms, classrooms and courtrooms.

Polk State College, in fact, recently ranked above all other 27 Florida College System (FCS) institutions in job placements among its graduates.

Polk State delivers its high-quality education at the most affordable price in Polk County, all while also providing convenient locations and course schedules, small class sizes, dynamic student-life opportunities, a rigorous Honors Program, and intercollegiate athletics.

Prospective students are encouraged to use this Career Guide to explore courses of study, career options, and all that Polk State College has to offer.

For more information, visit polk.edu or call 863.297.1000.

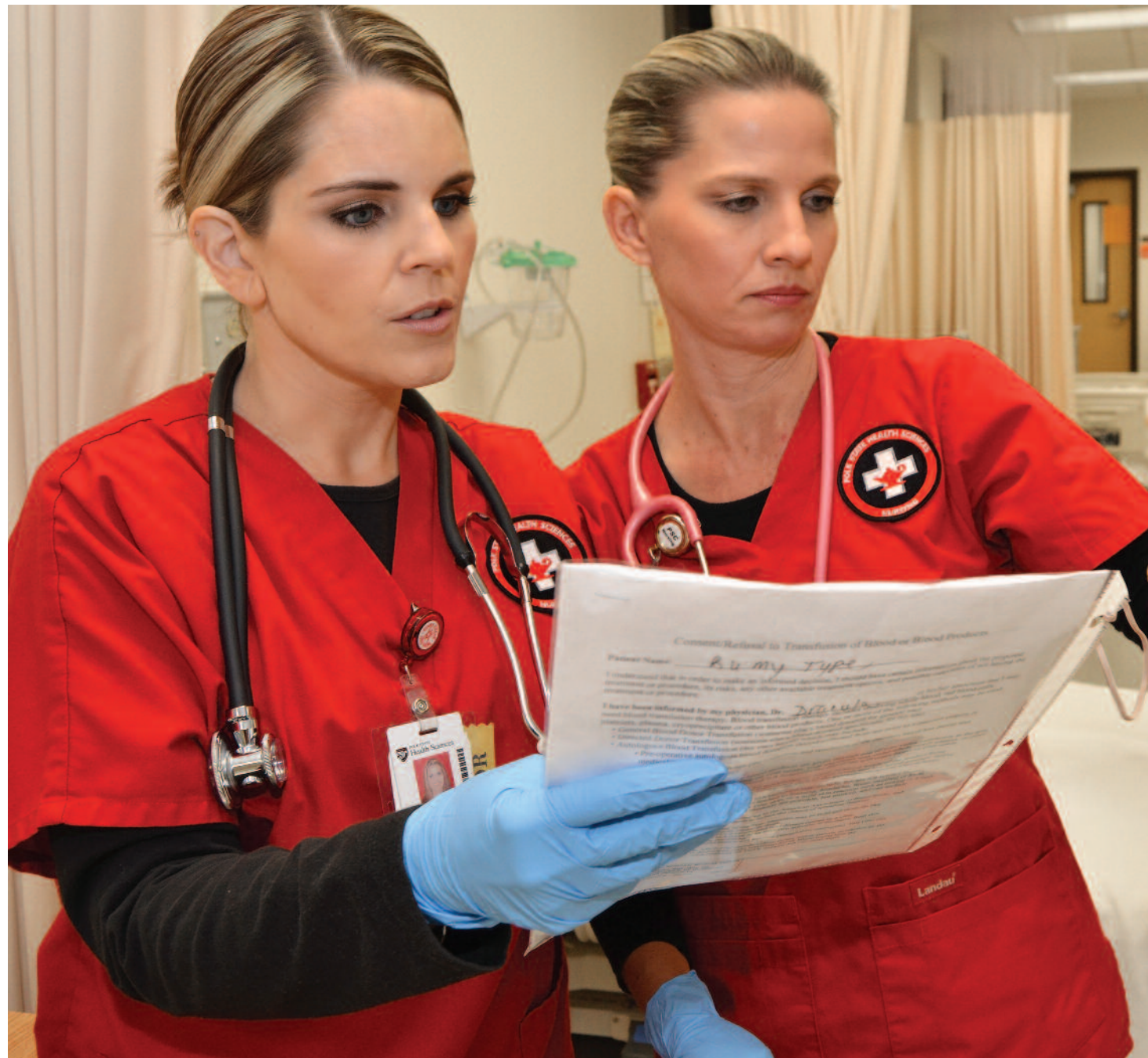
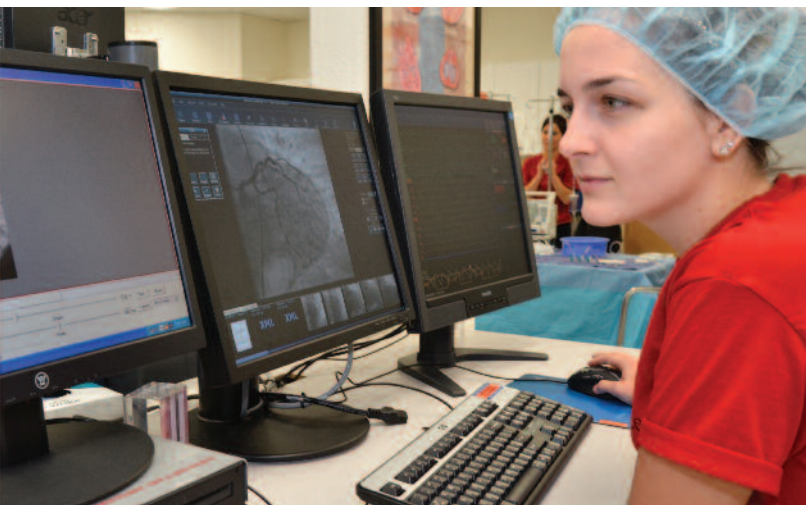


To get more
information
about
Polk State, visit
news.polk.edu

CONTENTS

Health Sciences	4
Business, Engineering & Technology	10
Public Safety	16
Fine Arts	20
Liberal Arts	24
Education	26
Internship Program and Bachelor's Degrees	28
High School and Professional Development	29
Financial Aid and Affordability	30







HEALTH SCIENCES

JOIN A LIFE-SAVING TEAM

In today's dynamic medical field, patient care is a team effort. From the radiographers who take diagnostic images, to the nurses who administer treatment, successful patient outcomes depend on numerous healthcare professionals.

Polk State Health Sciences offers degree programs in:

CARDIOVASCULAR TECHNOLOGY | DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY | NURSING | OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT | PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT | RADIOGRAPHY | RESPIRATORY CARE

**Cardiovascular Technology** polk.edu/cvt

Cardiovascular technologists use cutting-edge, ever-advancing technology to assist cardiologists during procedures to clear blocked arteries in the heart and elsewhere in the body. Polk State also offers an Accelerated Advanced Technical Certificate in CVT, for those who already have a degree in an approved healthcare field.

2010 median pay:

\$49,410 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

29 percent growth

Diagnostic Medical Sonography polk.edu/dms

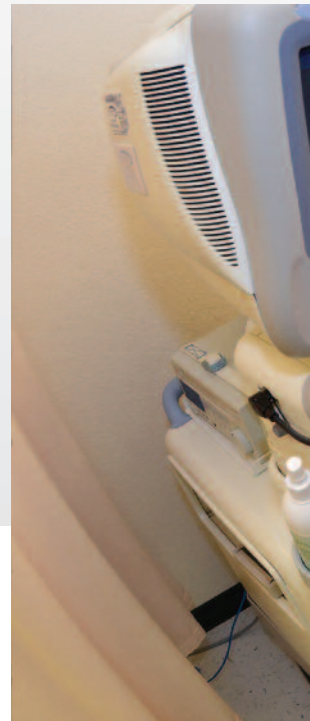
Diagnostic medical sonographers take ultrasound images of patients' bodies that are used to assess and diagnose medical conditions.

2010 median pay:

\$64,380 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

44 percent growth



National median pay and job outlook data are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Median pay means half of workers in a certain occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. Job outlook is the projected rate of change in employment through 2020. The average growth rate for all occupations is 14 percent.

Emergency Medical Services polk.edu/ems

The Emergency Medical Services Program trains students to work in out-of-hospital emergency medicine. There are three tiers of EMS providers:

- Emergency Medical Responders give initial, hands-on emergency care.
- Emergency Medical Technicians supply basic life support, including patient assessments, CPR, oxygen therapy, shock prevention and bandaging.
- Paramedics are trained in advanced life-support measures, such as venipuncture, medication administration, and defibrillation.

Polk State offers certificate programs for all three levels, as well as an associate's degree in Emergency Medical Services.

2010 median pay:

EMTs and paramedics: \$30,360 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

33 percent growth



Healthcare Administration polk.edu/bachelor

Healthcare administrators work on the business side of medicine. Their duties may include managing an entire hospital or clinic, managing a specific clinical area or department, or managing practice areas for groups of physicians.

Polk State's Associate in Science in Business Administration and Bachelor of Applied Science degrees both offer a specialization in Healthcare Administration for those interested in the business aspects of the medical field. Read more about Polk State's bachelor's degrees on page 28.

2010 median pay:

Medical and Health Services Managers: \$84,270 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

22 percent growth

Medical Coding Specialists polk.edu/coding

Medical coders translate patient medical records into numeric codes. Those codes are used for statistics, research and reimbursement of services rendered. Polk State offers a Medical Coding Specialist certificate program.

2010 median pay:

\$32,350 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

21 percent growth



THE REAL-LIFE LOOK

Kellie Mislovic graduated from Polk State's Respiratory Care Program and now works as a respiratory therapist at Lakeland Regional Medical Center.

Mislovic primarily works in the hospital's critical care unit, caring for many of the sickest patients, but she also occasionally works in the emergency department.

During a typical day's work, she manages ventilators for patients unable to breathe on their own, making sure they receive the proper amount of oxygen at an appropriate pace. She also administers medications and responds to patients experiencing cardiac or respiratory arrest.

Her job is fast-paced and she enjoys the daily hands-on work with patients.

"I love my job. I love the fact that I never know what is going to transpire in any given day. I enjoy the rush of emergency situations and being able to take care of my patients. I know I'm making a difference in their lives," she said.

**Medical Records Transcriptionist** polk.edu/certificate

Medical transcriptionists use a doctor's notes — both written and recorded — to prepare descriptive information for a patient's medical record. The record may include medical history, diagnoses, treatments, physical examinations and discharge summaries. Polk State offers a Medical Records Transcriptionist Advanced Technical Diploma.

2010 median pay:

\$32,900 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

6 percent growth

Nursing polk.edu/nursing

Nurses provide hands-on care for the duration of patient treatments, including recording medical histories and symptoms, giving medicines and treatments, consulting with doctors, and teaching patients and their family members to care for illnesses and injuries.

2010 median pay:

\$64,690 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

26 percent growth

Associate in Science — This degree is for those aiming to become a registered nurse.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) — This degree is for registered nurses who want a competitive edge in direct-care nursing or want to qualify for career advancement opportunities. This degree emphasizes nursing leadership and professional development. Read more about Polk State's bachelor's degrees on page 28.



Occupational Therapy Assistant polk.edu/ota

Occupational therapy assistants work under occupational therapists to help patients develop, recover and improve the skills needed for everyday life.

2010 median pay:

\$51,010 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

43 percent growth

Physical Therapist Assistant polk.edu/pta

Physical therapist assistants work under physical therapists, carrying out prescribed treatments to help injured patients relieve pain and restore function.

2010 median pay:

\$49,690 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

46 percent growth

Radiography polk.edu/radiography

Radiographers take diagnostic images — commonly known as X-rays — of patients, which help physicians determine conditions and prescribe treatments.

2010 median pay:

\$54,340 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

28 percent growth

Respiratory Care polk.edu/respiratory

Respiratory care therapists help patients who are having difficulty breathing to manage their conditions. They also provide emergency care to patients recovering from heart attacks, strokes or shock.

2010 median pay:

\$54,280 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

28 percent growth







BUSINESS, ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY

CAREERS IN THE BOARDROOM AND BEYOND

The fields of business, engineering and technology have never been more fast-paced or more exciting. Deals are made across continents. Mere keystrokes ship merchandise around the world. The machines that make products are more advanced than ever — and only growing more so.

Polk State Business, Engineering & Technology offers degree programs in:

COMPUTER NETWORK ENGINEERING | COMPUTER SYSTEMS & BUSINESS ANALYSIS | DIGITAL MEDIA TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY | SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT



National median pay and job outlook data are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Median pay means half of workers in a certain occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. Job outlook is the projected rate of change in employment through 2020. The average growth rate for all occupations is 14 percent.

Business

Accounting Technology polk.edu/business

Accounting professionals work in the receivables, payables, payroll and auditing departments of both for-profit and non-profit organizations. Polk State also offers a Bookkeeping Operations Certificate that can be applied toward the Accounting Technology degree.

Examples of positions:

bookkeeping, accounting and auditing clerks; financial clerks

2010 median pay:

\$34,000 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

Growth for positions in Accounting Technology ranges from 11 to 14 percent.

Business Administration polk.edu/business

The field of Business Administration offers entry-level and management positions at a wide variety of organizations, including wholesale and retail stores, service organizations, financial agencies, banks, large and small businesses, and government agencies.

Associate in Science — Polk State's Business Administration associate's degree is for those seeking entry-level positions in business. This degree offers specializations in Healthcare Administration, Insurance, Management, and Marketing.

Examples of positions:

administrative services managers; bill and account collectors; customer service representatives; community association, property and real estate managers

2010 median pay:

\$30,500 to \$78,000 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

Growth for entry-level positions in Business Administration ranges from 6 to 15 percent.

Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management

polk.edu/bachelor

Those interested in continuing their education beyond an associate's degree may study in Polk State's Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management (BAS) program. The program equips students with advanced training in accounting, strategic planning and decision-making, finance, business law, management and marketing. The BAS offers five concentration tracks: Business Administration, Business Information Technology, Healthcare Administration, Public Administration, and Public Safety Management. Read more about Polk State's bachelor's degrees on page 28.

Examples of positions:

database administrators; human resources managers; management analysts; medical and health services managers; market research analysts

2010 median pay:

\$60,600 to \$99,200 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

Growth for management positions in Business Administration ranges from 13 to 41 percent.

Business Operational Management polk.edu/business

This degree program is designed for students at Ridge Career Center and Traviss Career Center. Students must have completed a program of 900 clock hours or more, which they can then apply to the Business Operational Management degree. The degree introduces them to basic business concepts that will aid students in ascending to supervisory roles in their chosen technical fields, or in starting a business.

Entrepreneurship Certificate

polk.edu/entrepreneur

Polk State's Entrepreneurship Certificate Program is offered in both credit and non-credit formats. The program helps participants evaluate entrepreneurial opportunities, interpret financial data, understand the legal and regulatory issues of operating a business, recommend appropriate marketing strategies, develop a business plan and strengthen their leadership skills.

Supply Chain Management

polk.edu/supplychain

Supply Chain Management encompasses all functions related to the movement and storage of materials, work-in-process inventory, and finished goods from point of origin to point of consumption. This includes purchasing, inventory management, production planning and scheduling, distribution management, and quality management.

Examples of positions:

buyer/purchasing agent; cargo and freight agent; distribution manager; transportation supervisor; and warehouse supervisor

2010 median pay:

\$37,200 to \$80,200 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

Growth for positions in Supply Chain Management ranges from 7 to 29 percent.



Trafenia Flynn's career with CenterState Banks, Inc., began when she was a student at Polk State Lakeland Collegiate High School.

With the assistance of her Polk State instructors, she landed an internship in CenterState's IT (Information Technology) department during the summer before her senior year.

She graduated with an associate's degree in Business Administration from the College in 2010, and her internship eventually led to a full-time position at CenterState.

As CenterState has grown, so has Flynn's role with the company. She now works in Jacksonville as an information technology support analyst, assisting CenterState employees throughout Florida.

Though her success with CenterState has taken her out of Polk County — where her immediate family still resides — she says her education at Polk State is something she'll never leave behind.

"I learned a lot about people skills and how to interact with people and explain things in layman's terms while I was at Polk State. Polk State is home," she said.



Engineering

Aerospace polk.edu/aerospace

Polk State Aerospace offers an associate's degree in Professional Pilot Science, which prepares students to earn their commercial pilot certificates from the Federal Aviation Administration and work as pilots or flight instructors. Airline and commercial pilots fly and navigate airplanes while transporting passengers or cargo, or performing other jobs, like taking aerial photographs, fighting fires, or conducting air ambulance operations. Flight instructors fly with students training to become pilots, providing instruction on how to operate an aircraft. The Polk State curriculum focuses on human factors in pilot training, emphasizing safety and professionalism in the workplace.

2010 median pay:

\$92,060 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

11 percent growth

Engineering Technology polk.edu/et

Engineering technicians develop engineering solutions using hands-on knowledge of technology, applied science and math. Polk State's Engineering Technology degree includes a specialization in Advanced Manufacturing, which focuses on applying, analyzing, implementing and improving existing technologies in support of modern manufacturing.

Examples of positions:

first-line supervisor, industrial engineering technicians, mechanical engineering technicians, production supervisor

2010 median pay:

\$48,200 to \$87,200

Job outlook through 2020:

Growth for positions in Engineering Technology ranges from 2 to 9 percent.

Technology

Computer Network Engineering polk.edu/networking

A degree in Computer Network Engineering prepares students to work as network administrators, engineers and specialists. These professionals plan, design and administer computer networks of all sizes. The College also offers computer networking certificate programs, including Cisco CCNP, Cisco CCNA and Microcomputer Repair/Installation.

Examples of positions:

computer network architects; computer support specialists; network and computer systems administrators

2010 median pay:

\$46,300 to \$75,700 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

Growth for positions in Computer Network Engineering ranges from 18 to 28 percent.

Computer Systems & Business Analysis polk.edu/compsysbus

Computer systems and business analysts help businesses and other organizations operate more efficiently. These professionals use computer systems to evaluate business processes in order to recommend and implement improvements.

Examples of positions:

computer systems analyst, software developers

2010 median pay:

\$77,700 to \$90,500 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

Growth for positions in Computer Systems & Business Analysis ranges from 22 to 30 percent.

Digital Media Technology polk.edu/digitalmedia

The Digital Media Technology Program teaches the elements of effective audiovisual, graphic and web-based communication. Graduates are prepared to work as multimedia artists and managers, animators, graphic designers, web designers, photographers or audiovisual production managers. Opportunities are also available in advertising, print publishing, software publishing and other areas. The College also offers certificate programs in Graphic Design, Video Production and Web Production.

Examples of positions:

camera operators; film and video editors; graphic designers; multimedia artists and animators; producers and directors

2010 median pay:

\$40,400 to \$68,400

Job outlook through 2020:

Growth for positions in Digital Media Technology ranges from 4 to 13 percent.







PUBLIC SAFETY

THE FIRST RESPONSE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The field of public safety is wide and varied, encompassing the law enforcement professionals who make our communities safe from crime, the firefighters who put themselves in harm's way to rescue others, and the paramedics who deliver vital care in true life-and-death moments.

Polk State Public Safety offers degree programs in:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE | EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES | FIRE SCIENCE





THE REAL-LIFE LOOK

Lakeland Police Department Assistant Chief Larry Giddens earned an Associate of Arts degree from Polk State College and trained at the Polk State Kenneth C. Thompson Institute of Public Safety.

He was hired at LPD in the mid-1980s as a police officer, climbing the ranks through the years to his current position.

As an assistant chief, Giddens reports directly to the chief of police. He oversees a bureau of 190 employees, including members of the Uniformed Patrol Division, SWAT team and K9 Unit, as well as numerous civilian employees.

Giddens said his education from Polk State College has served as the basis for a fulfilling career.

"The foundation I received from Polk State was solid," he said. "I always wanted to be a police officer and help my community. This has been a lifelong dream of mine and I've lived it and still enjoy it. If you want to help others, law enforcement is the career for you."

Criminal Justice polk.edu/cj

Polk State's Kenneth C. Thompson Institute of Public Safety is a regional training academy for those seeking careers as sworn law enforcement/corrections officers or those seeking advanced training.

An associate's degree in Criminal Justice Technology is the groundwork for a career as a law enforcement officer, corrections officer, dispatcher, crime analyst, property or evidence clerk, public safety aide, service officer, crime scene technician, private investigator, probation or parole officer, or private-industry security officer.

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice — This degree is for those seeking to begin careers in Criminal Justice and for those already working in the field who seek career advancement. The program's curriculum includes corrections, criminal investigations, the court system, criminal justice administration and deviant behavior. Read more about Polk State's bachelor's degrees on page 28.

2010 median pay:

correctional officers, \$39,020 per year; **police officers and detectives**, \$55,010 per year; **private investigator**, \$42,870 per year; **probation officer**, \$47,200 per year; **security guards**, \$24,380 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

5 percent growth for correctional officers; 7 percent growth for police officers and detectives; 21 percent growth for private investigators; 18 percent growth for probation officers; 18 percent growth for security guards

Emergency Medical Services polk.edu/ems

The Polk State Emergency Medical Services Program trains students to work in out-of-hospital emergency medicine. There are three tiers of EMS providers:

- Emergency Medical Responders give initial, hands-on emergency care.
- Emergency Medical Technicians supply basic life support, including patient assessments, CPR, oxygen therapy, shock prevention and bandaging.
- Paramedics are trained in advanced life-support measures, such as venipuncture, medication administration, and defibrillation.

Polk State offers certificate programs for all three levels, as well as an associate's degree in Emergency Medical Services.

2010 median pay:

EMTs and paramedics: \$30,360 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

33 percent growth



Fire Science polk.edu/firescience

The Fire Science degree is for those who seek promotion through the ranks of the fire service. It emphasizes a scientific understanding of fire hazards and how they can be controlled, effective operating procedures at fires and other emergencies, leadership, emergency risk management and other managerial skills. This degree also leads to opportunities in risk-safety management, fire investigations, safety inspections, insurance divisions and the State Fire Marshal's office.

2010 median pay:

firefighters, \$45,250 per year; **fire inspectors** and **investigators**, \$52,230 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

9 percent growth

Public Safety Management polk.edu/bachelor

Public safety managers work in supervisory positions at law enforcement agencies, fire departments, large corporations and other organizations. They ensure the safety of not only the public but also of employees within their agency or organization. Polk State's Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management offers a specialization in Public Safety Management.

Examples of positions:

corrections supervisors, emergency management directors, law enforcement supervisors, firefighting supervisors, occupational health and safety specialists

2010 median pay:

\$55,400 to \$78,300 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

Growth for positions in Public Safety Management ranges from 2 to 13 percent.



National median pay and job outlook data are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Median pay means half of workers in a certain occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. Job outlook is the projected rate of change in employment through 2020. The average growth rate for all occupations is 14 percent.





FINE ARTS

PUTTING CREATIVITY TO WORK

The artistically inclined have many ways to develop and share their talents — whether it's composing music, performing on stage, painting the masterpieces that adorn gallery walls, or inspiring others to follow their own passion for the arts.

Polk State Fine Arts includes the following departments:

MUSIC | THEATRE | VISUAL ARTS



National median pay and job outlook data are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Median pay means half of workers in a certain occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. Job outlook is the projected rate of change in employment through 2020. The average growth rate for all occupations is 14 percent.

Music polk.edu/music

Musicians work not only as performers but also as composers, directors and teachers. Opportunities also exist in music therapy, a health profession that uses music to address cognitive, emotional, physical and social needs, studio recording, private instruction, music ministry, musical theatre, and the theme park industry. The Associate in Arts degree includes two education paths related to music: Music and Music Teacher Education.

2010 median pay:

music directors and composers, \$45,970 per year; **music teachers**, approximately \$52,000 per year, (starting pay for teachers with a bachelor's degree employed by the Polk County School Board is \$35,750); **musicians and singers**, \$22 per hour

Job outlook through 2020:

10 percent growth for musicians and singers and music directors and composers; 7 to 17 percent growth for music teachers depending on grade level taught



Theatre polk.edu/theatre

The Polk Theatre Department offers numerous on- and off-stage opportunities, preparing graduates for work as actors, costume designers, directors, lighting and sound technicians, producers, stage managers, technical directors, and drama teachers. Studying theatre may lead to work in live performances, television, movies, or numerous other venues, including Central Florida's theme park industry.

2010 median pay:

actors, \$17 per hour; **directors and producers**, \$68,440 per year; **set designers**, \$46,680 per year; **teachers**, approximately \$52,000 per year, (starting pay for teachers with a bachelor's degree employed by the Polk County School Board is \$35,750 per year)

Job outlook through 2020:

4 percent growth for actors; 10 percent growth for set designers; 11 percent growth for producers and directors; teachers, 7 to 17 percent growth depending on grade level taught



Visual Arts polk.edu/art

The visual arts offer opportunities to work as art directors for publications, movies and TV; craft and fine artists; fashion designers; graphic designers; industrial designers, developing concepts for cars, appliances and other products; interior designers; multimedia artists and animators; photographers; set and exhibit designers; and teachers. The Associate in Arts Degree includes an education path in Art.

2010 median pay:

art directors, \$80,630 per year; **craft and fine artists**, \$43,470 per year; **graphic designers**, \$43,500 per year; **industrial designers**, \$58,230 per year; **interior designers**, \$46,280 per year; **multimedia artists and animators**, \$58,510 per year; **photographers**, \$29,130 per year; **set and exhibit designers**, \$46,680 per year; **teachers**, approximately \$52,000 per year, (starting pay for teachers with a bachelor's degree employed by the Polk County School Board is \$35,750 per year)

Job outlook through 2020:

9 percent growth for art directors; 5 percent growth for craft and fine artists; 13 percent growth for graphic designers; 10 percent growth for industrial designers; 19 percent growth for interior designers; 8 percent growth for multimedia artists and animators; 13 percent growth for photographers; 10 percent growth for set and exhibit designers; teachers, 7 to 17 percent growth depending on grade level taught



THE REAL-LIFE LOOK

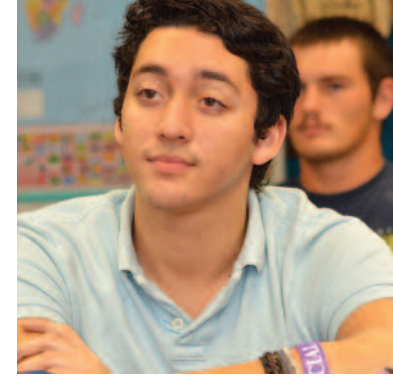
Paul Hughes discovered his love of the theatre at Polk State College, where he acted in his first play.

He earned his Associate in Arts degree from the College in 1977, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Theatre from Saint Leo University.

Hughes served for 23 years as the artistic director of Lakeland Community Theatre and 16 years as the theatre department chair for Lakeland's Lois Cowles Harrison Center for the Visual and Performing Arts. For five years, he was an acting instructor for the Stockholm Vocal Academy in Stockholm, Sweden. He has also performed numerous roles throughout Florida and New York and directed more than 300 productions.

He now works as the Fine Arts director and theatre instructor at All Saints' Academy in Winter Haven and programming director at the Polk Theatre in Lakeland.

Throughout his career, he has never forgotten the lessons of his early theatre experiences at Polk State. "I didn't just act at Polk. I had to learn to wire lights through the ceiling system and set up a stage—and I've done those same things many times in my career. I really got my foundation at Polk," he said.



LIBERAL ARTS

THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE STUDY

The Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts degree is for those planning to pursue a four-year bachelor's degree. Polk State's AA degree is parallel to and fully transferrable to Florida's State University System.



The prerequisites to enter specific majors within the State University System or Florida College System vary widely. Students are encouraged to decide on an upper-division major when they enroll at Polk State and follow the education path for that major, putting their lower-division classes to work for their future educational pursuits.

Did you know?

Approximately 90 percent of Polk State students graduate without taking on any student-loan debt, thanks to the College's financial aid and affordable tuition.



Some of Polk State's education paths include:

Agriculture Science	Foreign Languages Teacher Education
Animal Science	Forensic Science
Art	Health Information Management
Astronomy	Health Sciences
Athletic Training	History
Biological Science	Human Resources Development
Biology Teacher Education	Mass Communications
Botany/Zoology	Mathematics and Statistics
Business Administration	Mathematics Teacher Education
Chemistry	Medical Technology
Chemistry Teacher Education	Music
Civil Engineering Technology	Music Teacher Education
Community Health	Nursing (Transfer to University)
Computer Information Systems	Pharmacy
Computer Science	Philosophy and Religion
Construction Engineering Tech	Physics
Dietetics/Nutritional Services	Physics Teacher Education
Economics – Social Sciences	Political Science and Government
Electronic Engineering Tech	Psychology
Elementary Education	Public Administration
Engineering	Social Studies Teacher Education
English Teacher Education	Social Work
Environmental Science	Sociology
Exercise Science/Wellness	Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
Foreign Languages	



THE REAL-LIFE LOOK

Brenda Patterson earned her Associate in Arts degree from Polk State College, an educational foundation that allowed her to transfer to the University of South Florida, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a master's degree in Library Science.

She now works as the fine arts and programming librarian for the Lakeland Public Library, a position that combines her love of books with her desire to help others.

Patterson arranges special events for the library, including book discussions, visits from authors, musical performances and other events of interest to the community. She also helps patrons with a variety of questions, from how to use their e-readers to how to start an Internet job search.

She is also an accomplished poet who has recited her work across the country, making appearances from San Francisco to New Orleans.

"I've always been grateful to Polk State for putting higher education within my reach," she said.

EDUCATION

MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

Whether they're teaching the ABCs or advanced algebra, educators make an untold impact in the life of every student who enters their classroom.

Polk State offers the following options for aspiring educators:

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT | EDUCATOR PREPARATION INSTITUTE





Early Childhood Education and Management polk.edu/earlychildhood

Early childhood educators develop lesson plans and classroom activities that address the physical, social, emotional and cognitive areas of development. On a daily basis, they ensure the safety and supervision of children from birth to age 8. They work with young children to reach developmental milestones and educate them in all subjects, including: reading, writing, math and science. Early childhood directors are responsible for all aspects of a child care facility, including hiring and supervising workers, ensuring the facility abides by state regulations and budgeting. Through the Early Childhood Education and Management Program, students may earn industry credentials that help them progress on the career ladder, including being a Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten teacher or a child care facility director. Students completing coursework for the preschool and child care management certificates earn college credits toward the Associate in Science degree.

2010 median pay:

childcare workers, \$19,300 per year; **preschool teachers with an AS degree**, \$25,700 per year; **childcare center directors**, \$42,960 per year

Job outlook through 2020:

20 percent growth for childcare workers; 25 percent growth for preschool teachers; 25 percent growth for childcare center directors

National median pay and job outlook data are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Median pay means half of workers in a certain occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. Job outlook is the projected rate of change in employment through 2020. The average growth rate for all occupations is 14 percent.

Educator Preparation Institute polk.edu/epi

Teachers develop lesson plans and classroom activities, assess students' progress, communicate with parents, prepare students to pass standardized tests, and supervise students in all areas of a school, including at lunchtime and during outdoor play. Teachers at elementary schools teach all subjects, while middle and high school teachers specialize in specific subjects. The Educator Preparation Institute (EPI) is an accelerated training option for anyone who has a non-education bachelor's degree and wants to become a teacher. EPI students complete seven month-long courses and field experiences in area classrooms. They must also pass Florida Teacher Certification exams, which include the Subject Area Exam, Professional Education Exam and General Knowledge Exam. Polk State also offers the K-12 Reading Endorsement for Reading teachers.

2010 median pay:

Teachers: \$52,000 per year (Starting pay for teachers with a bachelor's degree employed by the Polk County School Board, \$35,750 per year.)

Job outlook through 2020:

7 to 17 percent growth depending on grade level taught



THE REAL-LIFE LOOK

Aneesah Adams earned a bachelor's degree in Social Work and spent several years working as a case manager in the Behavioral Health Division at a local hospital.

Seeking a career change, Adams decided to become a teacher, a position that would allow her to continue helping children and their families.

She enrolled in Polk State's Educator Preparation Institute, and is now a fifth-grade teacher in Winter Haven.

Her daily work includes teaching every subject — reading, writing, math, social studies and science — monitoring student progress, and communicating with parents and school administrators. She also is responsible for making sure her students are prepared for the state's FCAT test.

"I am definitely satisfied in my job. I have students who call me, email me and come to see me to tell me how much I benefitted them. That means a lot to me," she said.

CONTACT US

Winter Haven

999 Avenue H NE
Winter Haven, Florida 33881
863.297.1000

Lakeland

3425 Winter Lake Road
Lakeland, Florida 33803
863.297.1000

JD Alexander Center Lake Wales

152 E. Central Avenue
Lake Wales, Florida 33853
863.298.6830

Ridge Community High School

500 Orchid Drive
Davenport, Florida 33837
863.297.1000

Airside Center

3515 Aviation Drive
Lakeland, Florida 33811
863.669.2326

Polk State College Lake Wales Arts Center

1099 State Road 60 East
Lake Wales, FL 33853
836.297.1000

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AND BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Polk State's Internship Program *polk.edu/interns*

Internships are ideal for gaining real-world experience, building a resume and creating a professional network that can lead to job opportunities for years to come.

During internships, students are permitted to work on a variety of tasks, gaining invaluable insight into possible future careers. Internships are usually short-term, lasting between a few weeks to a semester, and are designed to fit around students' course schedules. Some internships are paid positions, others are unpaid. However, the learning opportunities and experiences internships provide typically outweigh any financial compensation.

Polk State College's Internship Program helps match students with internships in the community. The program also offers assistance with writing resumes and preparing for job interviews.

Polk State Bachelor's Degrees *polk.edu/bachelor*

Polk State's bachelor's degrees are designed to prepare students for career advancement in a variety of fields. Each of the College's bachelor's degrees has been carefully developed with the input of area employers to ensure that graduates possess in-demand knowledge and skills.

The bachelor's degrees build on foundational skills and knowledge, emphasizing a broader understanding of each particular field, leadership skills, and professional development.

Bachelor of Applied Science in Supervision and Management *polk.edu/bachelor*

The BAS degree readies students for supervisory positions in their area of specialization, and is open to anyone who has an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree. This degree offers several specializations, each of which target specific areas within the broad field of management. Specializations include: **Business Administration**, to meet the needs of small businesses and large corporations; **Business Information Technology**, which emphasizes the use of technology to analyze data, skills that are in demand by businesses of all kinds; **Healthcare Administration**, for those seeking management positions at hospitals, clinics or physicians' offices; **Public Administration**, which provides skills for those seeking careers in government and nonprofit agencies; **Public Safety Management**, for those seeking supervisory roles in law enforcement, fire safety, emergency medical services or emergency response teams.

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice *polk.edu/bscj*

This degree is open to anyone who has an AA or AS degree, regardless of whether they previously studied Criminal Justice. The program's broad curriculum includes corrections, the court system, criminal investigations, criminal justice administration and deviant behavior. This degree is valuable to those seeking to enter the field of criminal justice, as well as those already working in the field who seek career advancement.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN) *polk.edu/bsn*

This degree is for registered nurses who already have an associate's degree in Nursing. The degree equips students with a competitive edge in direct-care nursing, preparing students for career advancement opportunities. In most healthcare settings, a bachelor's degree is required for supervisory nursing roles.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Collegiate High Schools, Dual Enrollment and Career Pathways

polk.edu/highschool | polk.edu/pathways

Polk State College has several options for high school students seeking a jumpstart on the higher education that will lead to their desired careers.

Polk State operates two public charter high schools — Polk State Lakeland Collegiate and Polk State Chain of Lakes Collegiate in Winter Haven. Both schools serve high school juniors and seniors who meet grade-point average and entrance-exam requirements.

Students at the schools take courses that count toward both their high school diplomas and associate's degrees. In many cases, students graduate with both a high school diploma and associates degree.

A third public, charter high school, Polk State College Lakeland Gateway to College, helps students get back on academic track, enabling them to complete their high school diplomas and also earn college credit.

Academically talented students may also choose to earn college credits by dual enrolling at Polk State. Students who choose dual enrollment still attend their home high school, but also take courses at the College that count toward their diplomas and associate's degrees. Dual enrollment is open to students from all of Polk County's public secondary schools, most private high schools and students in home education programs.

The Career Pathways program is a partnership between the College and the Polk County School Board. Through this program, students who attend a Polk County Career Academy or Career Center may receive free college credit for their coursework if they choose to attend Polk State College. Their high-school work will be applied to certificates and Associate in Science degree programs, allowing them to graduate from college faster.

Polk State Corporate College corporatepsc.com

The Polk State Corporate College provides workforce training through nine institutes, including the: Advanced Manufacturing Institute; Child Care Training Institute; Contractor Safety Training Institute; Design, Construction and Sustainability Institute; Insurance Institute; IT/Computer Institute; Professional Development Institute; Real Estate Institute; and Supply Chain Management Institute.

Through Polk State Corporate College, members of the workforce receive advanced training in areas specifically needed by their employers.



FINANCIAL AID

Paying for Your Degree

Polk State's excellent financial aid, combined with the College's affordable tuition, mean that approximately 90 percent of Polk State students graduate without any student-loan debt.

Steps to Receive Financial Aid

- Complete the FAFSA — The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required for all federal and state aid, and is also required for federal Stafford loans. Find the application at: fafsa.ed.gov.
- Apply to a degree program at the College — Only degree-seeking students may receive financial aid.
- Submit transcripts — The College must evaluate all transcripts before financial aid may be awarded.
- Stay in touch — Other information may be required. Make sure to respond to any requests from Student Financial Services.

Forms of Financial Aid:

- Federal Pell Grant Program — Pell grants are based on financial need, the cost to attend school, status as a full- or part-time student, and future academic plans. Funds do not have to be repaid if students meet all requirements.
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program — The FSEOG program provides assistance to students with the greatest need. Funds do not have to be repaid if students meet all requirements.
- Federal Work-Study Program — This program provides part-time employment opportunities to students who demonstrate financial need.
- Florida Student Assistance Grant Program — This program awards grants to students based on need.
- Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program — This program offers three different levels of financial assistance based on students' academic performance. Funds do not have to be repaid if students meet all requirements.
- Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans — This is a state-run program that benefits dependent children or unremarried spouses of Florida veterans who died as a result of injuries, diseases or disabilities that resulted from their military service.
- Stafford Loan Program — Federal Stafford loans are issued at a fixed interest rate. Funds must be repaid.

Polk State also offers Polk State Foundation scholarships, institutional scholarships and private scholarships.

Additionally, military veterans may use their Department of Veterans Affairs benefits at Polk State College.

Did you know?

Polk State is **No. 1 in filling workforce needs**. Its graduates get jobs at higher rates than those of any of the 27 other public colleges in Florida.





polk.edu

Accreditation

Polk State College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate's and bachelor's degrees. Polk State College programs are also accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education; Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Services Professions; Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education; Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies; Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education; Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care; Joint Review on Education in Cardiovascular Technology; Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology; National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.

Data

National median pay and job outlook information is based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Median pay means half of workers in a certain occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. Actual salaries will vary according to region of employment, employer, work experience and other factors. Job outlook is the projected rate of change in employment through 2020. The average growth rate for all occupations is 14 percent.

Equal Access/Equal Opportunity

Polk State College is an equal-access, equal-opportunity institution committed to excellence through diversity in education and employment. The College prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, marital status, veteran status, genetic information or disability in any of its employment, policies or practices, educational programs or activities.

For questions or concerns, please contact: Valparisa Baker, Director of Equity and Diversity
999 Ave. H N.E.
Winter Haven, FL 33881
863.292.3602
vbaker@polk.edu

*We are Polk.*TM

Polk State College | polk.edu | 863.297.1000