

What does it take to become a **HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANICS?**

Heavy Equipment Mechanics diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanical, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, and conveyors, used in construction, logging, and surface mining. Using operating manuals, blueprints, and technical drawings, they test mechanical products and equipment after repair or assembly, to ensure proper performance and compliance with manufacturer specifications. They perform other routine maintenance work on equipment and vehicles; examine parts for damage or excessive wear, using micrometers and gauges; and schedule maintenance for industrial machines and equipment.

Skills & Knowledge

High school courses in mathematics and physics provide a strong foundation for a heavy equipment mechanic's career. You'll have to work well without direct supervision, whether you're working solo or within a team. This work requires physical dexterity and endurance; frequently standing or bending for many hours. Good mechanics are problem solvers. They are diligent, attentive and safety conscious.

Training

Training is offered at registered training institutions and course offerings usually cover the basics of diagnostic techniques, electronics, and other related subjects. Because vehicle and equipment technology is increasingly sophisticated and computerised, some employers prefer to hire mechanics who have completed a formal post-secondary training programme. Many employers train apprentices on-the-job on various aspects of the work including diagnosing and identifying malfunctions; the use of computerised tools and equipment; and the disassembly and reassembly of heavy equipment and components. Apprentices advance to more complex work as they show competence.

Working Conditions

Most heavy vehicle and mobile equipment service technicians work full time, and many work evenings or weekends. Overtime is common. Although many work indoors in repair shops, some travel to worksites to make repairs because it is often too expensive to transport heavy or mobile equipment to a shop. Generally, more experienced service mechanics specialise in field service.

They drive trucks that are specially equipped with replacement parts and tools, and they spend considerable time outdoors and often drive long distances. Heavy vehicle and mobile equipment service technicians frequently lift heavy parts and tools, handle greasy and dirty equipment, and stand or lie in awkward positions. Assistants under more experienced designers before advancing to independent designer, chief designer or creative director. Aspiring designers starting out in their careers spend a considerable amount of time marketing themselves and their products to attract public attention. Established designers continue marketing themselves through advertisements in the print and online media.

Job Prospects

Fashion designers work for design firms, boutiques, manufacturing companies, wholesalers, department stores, chain retailers, retail shops and boutiques. Some are also self-employed. In smaller companies the fashion designer will likely wear many different hats, acting as designer, patternmaker, and even colorist. Solo designers, if just starting out, will wear all hats until he or she establishes a name in the industry. Some self-employed fashion designers may earn many times the salary of the highest paid salaried designers.

You too can live your passion and qualify as a Fashion Designer. If you are creative, personable, detail-oriented and knowledgeable of fashion trends, you are a good candidate.

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