

## **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TEACHERS, POSTSECONDARY**

**Job Description:** A vitally important piece of the North Dakota energy development puzzle is the ability to provide vocational and technical education and training to individuals seeking employment opportunities. Fortunately, North Dakota has a number of community and tribal colleges that offer specialized programs to prepare students to enter the energy employment market, both in and out of state. The job of a postsecondary vocational education teacher is to teach or instruct vocational or occupational subjects to students who have graduated or left high school. This career includes correspondence and on-line schooling, industrial and commercial programs, and adult education teachers who prepare students to operate industrial machinery and equipment and transportation and communications equipment. Core tasks include:



- Supervising and monitoring students' use of tools and equipment
- Observing and evaluating students' work to determine progress, provide feedback, and make suggestions for improvement
- Determining the training needs of students or workers
- Administering oral, written, or performance tests to measure progress and to evaluate training effectiveness
- Preparing reports and maintaining records such as student grades, and training activity details
- Developing curricula and planning course content and methods of instruction
- Developing teaching aids such as instructional software, multimedia visual aids, or study materials

**Needed Skills and Education:** A postsecondary vocational education teacher should possess good interpersonal communication skills to connect with students and to work as a member of an educational team. A high level of skill is required to counsel and advise people, to constantly evaluate student work and progress, to prepare educational materials, and to provide information on equipment and procedures. In most cases, a college bachelor's degree is required to teach at this level. However, because knowledge and experience in a particular trade or field are important to vocational education, some institutions do not require a bachelor's degree provided the instructor can demonstrate the necessary expertise in his or her field.

**Wages:** In North Dakota, the average annual wage for postsecondary vocational education teachers is \$48,620. This is somewhat below the national average annual wage of \$52,770.

**Other Information:** Instructors in this field may be called upon to do a combination of in-class, on-line, and on-the-job training. There has been a significant growth in the number of students who attend community colleges and vocational – technical schools nationally, so the employment outlook is steady.

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