CHEMICAL TECHNICIAN

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Description:
Work with chemists and chemical engineers, developing and using chemicals, related products, and equipment. There are two types of chemical technicians:

1. Research and development technicians who work in experimental laboratories
2. Process control technicians who work in manufacturing or other industrial plants

Many research and development chemical technicians conduct a variety of laboratory procedures, from routine process control to complex research projects. They may collect and analyze samples of air and water to monitor pollution levels, or they may produce compounds through complex organic synthesis.

Most process technicians work in manufacturing, testing packaging for design, integrity of materials, and environmental acceptability. Often, process technicians who work in plants also focus on quality assurance, monitoring product quality or production processes and developing new production techniques.

Median Wage (as of 2006):
$40,970

Level of Education:
High school diploma, On-the-job training, A.S./A.A.S. (required), B.S. (preferred in some positions)

Job Outlook (through 2016):
3-6% increase in number of jobs

Examples of Colleges & Affiliated Programs:
Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) – Liberal Arts & Sciences degree with concentration in Chemistry
SUNY Jefferson Community College – Liberal Arts & Sciences degree with concentration in Chemistry
SUNY Mohawk Valley Community College – Life Sciences degree with concentration in Chemistry
Cayuga Community College – Liberal Arts & Sciences degree with concentration in Chemistry

Employers:
Private Sector – Centerra Wine Company; Thompson Health; Kelly Engineering Resources; Eastman Kodak Company; Aerotek Scientific; Corning Incorporated
College and University Research Programs- Cornell University: Cornell Center for Materials Research, Cornell Fuel Cell Institute, Cornell Institute of Research in Chemical Ecology; New York State Agricultural Experiment Station's Vinification and Brewing Laboratory; U.S. Plant, Soil and Nutrient Laboratory
Federal and State Governments – New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets; United States Food and Drug Administration; United States Department of Homeland Security; United States Department of Agriculture; United States Environmental Protection Agency

High School/College Courses to Take:
Chemistry, Biochemistry
Biology, Microbiology
Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-calculus, Calculus, Statistics

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