



Combustion turbine

Choosing a CT Apprenticeship

The Combustion Turbine Apprenticeship offers what's increasingly rare in today's economy—a genuine family-wage job with clear advancement potential and step progressions that can fundamentally change your quality of life. Beyond the exceptional compensation, you'll join a union brotherhood culture that offers unmatched job security, comprehensive benefits, and strong representation—creating an environment where workers truly look out for each other.

The technical complexity and variety of combustion turbine operations ensure that no two days are ever the same, making this an intellectually stimulating career for those who thrive on problem-solving and continuous learning. Whether you're conducting daily monitoring inspections, operating simple cycle or combined cycle plants with steam and gas systems, or performing critical water treatment chemistry tests, every shift brings variety and technical challenges.

The outage periods, particularly, showcase the critical nature of this work and the opportunities for growth. During planned maintenance, routine equipment replacement, and emergency repairs, you'll work alongside contractors on major projects, troubleshoot unexpected breakdowns with all-hands-on-deck urgency during unplanned outages, and take advantage of planned outages to improve system reliability. From crawling through inspection holes

to climbing in water treatment pits during outage cycles, you'll develop problem-solving skills and technical expertise that make you invaluable to operations. These periods showcase why combustion turbines are considered the most dispatchable and reliable units on the grid—they must be ready to respond instantly to grid demands, making your role absolutely critical to regional energy security.

The small crew environment means your contributions are immediately visible and valued, while the technical complexity ensures that dedicated learners can continuously advance their expertise and earning potential. This isn't just a job—it's a career that combines cutting-edge technology, meaningful work, exceptional compensation, and the satisfaction of knowing that your daily efforts keep the lights on for thousands of families and businesses.



Our power grid role

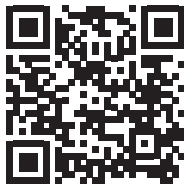
We spin turbines that put power on the grid, transforming natural resources into the electricity that powers your daily life. From natural gas to the flip of your light switch, we make modern life possible.

Taking charge of your career!

Your path begins as a helper, where you'll discover that willingness trumps everything else. You'll tackle the less glamorous but essential tasks—pressure washing equipment, moving heavy carts, and maintaining aging plants that demand constant attention. But here's where the magic happens: this isn't just grunt work, it's your proving ground. The best apprentices don't wait to be told what to do; they scan the environment, spot the gaps, and fill them without hesitation. When equipment breaks unexpectedly (and it will), you'll learn to ask yourself the critical question: "How am I going to make myself useful?" This self-driven environment shapes you into someone who thinks on their feet, anticipates needs, and becomes indispensable through pure initiative and engagement. The apprenticeship creates remarkably well-rounded professionals who combine real-world problem-solving skills with solid academic foundations.

By the time you reach journey worker status, you've been forged through a unique combination of practical grit and technical sophistication. You've evolved from someone willing to pressure wash equipment to a skilled professional who can operate multimillion-dollar systems, coordinate with grid operations, and troubleshoot complex problems in real-time. This journey doesn't just teach you a trade—it transforms you into a critical guardian of the electrical infrastructure, someone whose daily decisions impact entire communities. The self-driven culture that once challenged you as a helper now empowers you as a journey worker to innovate, lead, and mentor the next generation of apprentices coming up behind you.

Day in the life video



youtu.be/Ai-G2RP1ocl

For more information, contact us at PTA@PSE.com

Success story

Courtney M.

Combustion Turbine Journey Worker

In February 2023, Courtney became the first woman to complete Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) Washington state registered combustion turbine (CT) apprenticeship program. Her journey began with PSE's Pathway-to-Apprenticeship program, a competency-based pre-apprenticeship training initiative that prepared her well for the rigors of a four-year, 8,000-hour apprenticeship program. PSE's combustion turbine pathway builds foundational skills each step of the way from the entry-level helper position, to apprentice, and finally to journey worker.

The former HVAC Tech is now a card-carrying IBEW local 77 member and journey worker with PSE's Encogen Generating Station. "We're power plant operators but we're also electricians, mechanics, millwrights, plumbers, chemists, welders, water treatment operators, automotive technicians, and a million other trades combined into one," she said. Courtney decided to transition to the energy sector for its career opportunities, emphasis on innovation and learning, and generous pay and benefits.

Every day on the job looks different for Courtney, who readily embraces the principle "commit to being a life-long learner." On any given day, she might have to troubleshoot and repair electrical systems, remove and rebuild a pump or motor, or perform boiler chemistry testing and data analysis. "There's always something new to dive into, a new skill to develop, or a new theory to comprehend," Courtney said.

Follow Courtney's path to success:

1. Energy Production Helper (Pathway to Apprenticeship)
2. Combustion Turbine Apprentice
3. Combustion Turbine Journey Worker