

Process operators operate, monitor and troubleshoot the manufacturing process used to make many products. Process operators work both indoors and outdoors using knowledge of computers, math, physics, and chemistry to keep plants running safely and efficiently.

Process operators are in short supply. The average age of a process operator is 50, according to the Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance, which means that as many as half of all process operators could retire in the next five to 10 years. As a result, the industry is going to great lengths to increase career awareness and attract individuals who are highly skilled and motivated.

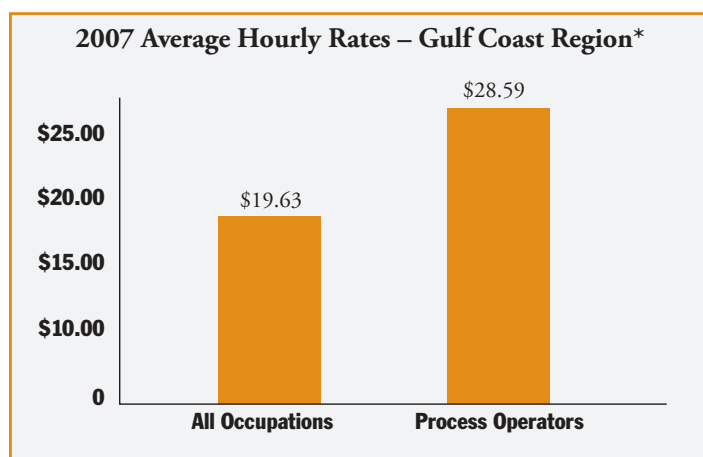
## FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE SHORTAGE:

- Technology advances that have increased skills required to enter the occupation
- An existing workforce approaching retirement age

## WHY CONSIDER A CAREER AS A PROCESS OPERATOR?

- Good benefits and pay
- Excellent training available at local colleges
- Numerous job openings with multiple shift options
- A rewarding career for the highly skilled and motivated

## IF EARNING A GREAT SALARY IS A TOP PRIORITY THEN A CAREER AS A PROCESS OPERATOR MAY BE FOR YOU!



Brought to you by the Education Committee of The Gulf Coast Workforce Board.  
For more information visit us on the web at [www.wrksolutions.com](http://www.wrksolutions.com)  
Latest data available. February 2009.

\*Includes the following counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

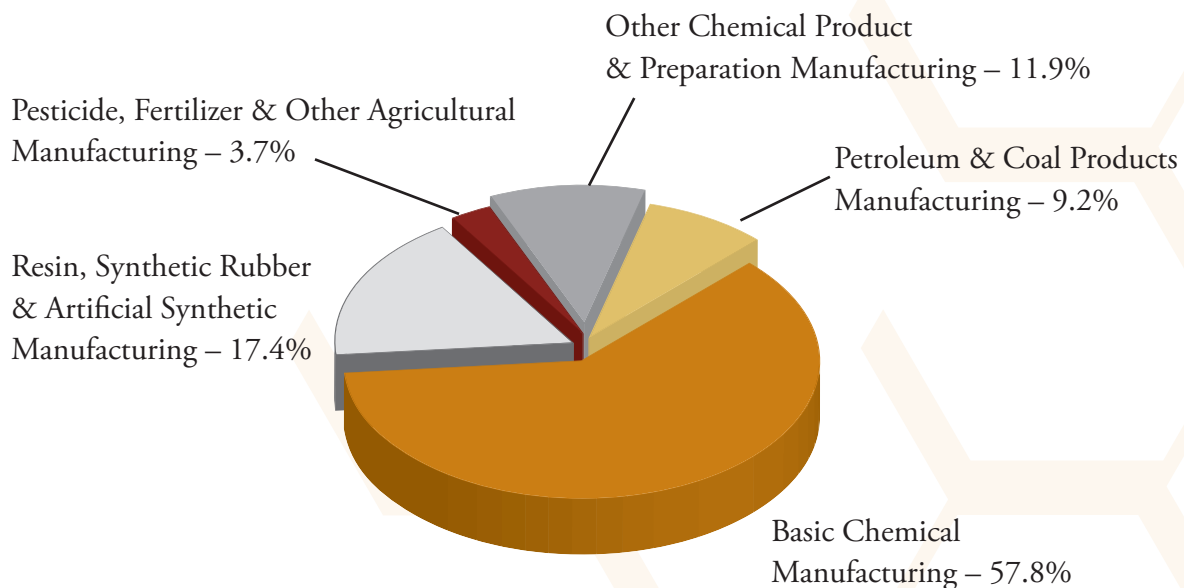
# FOCUS ON PROCESS OPERATORS

## START EARLY AND BE PREPARED!

Most companies in the Gulf Coast Region prefer process operators who have an associate's degree in Process Technology. A degree in Process Technology can open the doors to getting a job in a number of fields, including refinery operations, chemical plant operations, food processing, power generation, pharmaceuticals and more. At a minimum, companies require the completion of a Process Technology Certification Program. Once hired, companies usually require employees to pursue an associate's degree in Process Technology.

A strong knowledge of computer technology, math and science is required for successful completion of a Process Technology program. Strive to get good grades throughout high school and seek college preparatory and advanced placement programs. Be aware of admission application deadlines and take necessary action to apply in time. To get ahead, persons can take a Fast Track Certification class at their local community college while still in high school. Work with your high school and community college counselors to ensure that all credits will transfer. All companies require a drug test, background check and additional testing.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROCESS OPERATORS EXIST IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS.



**Gulf Coast Region  
Process Operators by 2016**

# FOCUS ON PROCESS OPERATORS

9th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English I	World Geography	<b>Career-Related Electives:</b> N/A
	Algebra I	Languages other than English I	
	Biology	Health/PE or Equivalent	
10th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English II	World History	<b>Career-Related Electives:</b> N/A
	Geometry	Languages other than English II	
	Chemistry	Technology Applications	
11th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English III	United States History	<b>Career-Related Electives:</b> Manufacturing Systems
	Algebra II	Communication Applications	
	Physics	PE or Equivalent	
12th Grade	Suggested Coursework		
	English IV	Government/Economics	<b>Career-Related Electives:</b> Manufacturing Technology or Energy, Power & Transportation Systems
	Precalculus	Fine Arts	
	Environmental Systems		



# FOCUS ON PROCESS OPERATORS

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## COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- Alvin Community College
- Brazosport College
- College of the Mainland
- Houston Community College
- San Jacinto College
- The Victoria College
- Wharton County Jr. College

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

- Akzo Nobel Polymer Chemicals
- BASF Corporation
- Bayer Corporation
- BP Amoco Chemical Co.
- Chevron Phillips Chemical Co.
- The Dow Chemical Company
- E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co.
- Equistar Chemicals, LP
- ExxonMobil Chemical
- FMC Corporation
- Goodyear Chemical
- INEOS Olefins and Polymers, USA
- Keneka
- Lubrizol Corporation
- Lyondellbasell Chemical Company
- PPG Industries, Inc.
- Praxair, Inc.
- Rhodia Inc.
- Rohm & Haas
- Shell Deer Park Chemical
- SI Group
- Solvay Chemicals, Inc.
- Sunoco Chemicals
- Texas Petrochemicals LP
- Valero Refining



For additional information visit us at

[www.wrksolutions.com/employer/Energy](http://www.wrksolutions.com/employer/Energy)

Workforce Solutions is a regional partner with the Gulf Coast Process Technology Alliance

[www.gcpta.org](http://www.gcpta.org)

Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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