



MAT2, the Michigan Advanced Technician Training Program, combines time spent in the community college classroom with real-world experiences at a company. Companies invest in training by paying tuition, a school stipend, and wages during the work period. MAT2 is modeled after apprenticeship programs in the German education systems involving education, training and practice within a company. MAT2 is:

- An industry-driven approach to education
- Designed to combine theory, practice and work to train a globally competitive workforce.
- Focusing on a widening skills gap and an aging workforce in manufacturing and technology industries
- A three year commitment

Currently there are four programs available in Michigan: Mechatronics, Technical Product Design, Information Technology, and computer Numerical Control (CNC). **In Wayne County, Henry Ford College partners with local high schools and local companies to offer Mechatronics and Computer Numerical Control.**

**Mechatronics** is the combination of electrical, mechanical and electronic skills used to identify, analyze and solve systems-based problems. A mechatronic technician must be able to support engineers, modify machines, make minor changes, repair, test, and provide maintenance for related equipment.

**Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Manufacturing** Technicians set up, operate and produce high quality products on computerized numerically controlled (CNC) machine tools. Program participants will be competent in blueprint reading, gauging and inspection, statistical process control, mathematics, safety and machine tooling.

How does the program work? MAT2 recruits potential applicants and each company screens, interviews, selects and hires the students to be accepted into the program. Those students then alternate between school at the community college and work periods at the work site, allowing them to train on the company's in-house equipment. The company then pays the student's tuition, school-period stipends and an hourly wage for work. After the three year commitment is completed the student earns an Associate Degree and then a two year commitment to work at the company where he/she was trained.

Mat2 website: [www.mitalent.org/mat2](http://www.mitalent.org/mat2)

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