



# OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Electrical Distribution Systems Program (EDS)

### Program Overview

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Electrical Distribution Systems Technology program is to prepare students for entry employment at any utility offering an apprenticeship program. The Electrical Distribution Systems Technology program strives to provide high quality, occupationally oriented courses with an emphasis on safety and critical thinking skills.

Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) offers the Electrical Distribution Systems (Lineworker) associate degree at the Lebanon Education Center and Richwood Valley Campus and has been running EDS classes since the fall of 2018. Electric utility line technicians install and repair poles, conductors, cables, and operate and maintain equipment used in electrical power and distribution systems. Students in this program will learn to climb wood pole structures, build, and maintain electrical distribution systems, and operate various equipment related to the power distribution field. An emphasis on safe work practices and critical thinking skills will be a part of all coursework. Because we are a training program, we do not energize any of the systems that students build in the lab environment.

The EDS program is considered a pre-apprenticeship program, though some utility providers do take our program as the first year or two years of their apprenticeship to become a Journeyman Line worker. You are advised to inquire with the utility provider you are hoping to work for directly to see how our program fits into their apprenticeship structure.

### **By the end of the EDS program, students will be able to:**

1. Demonstrate and perform appropriate pole-climbing procedures and techniques in the field.
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of basic safety as it applies to the profession.
3. Apply working knowledge of REA line code & standards.
4. Demonstrate safe and responsible use and operation of all line-worker equipment.
5. Comply with requirements to earn required certifications, to include CPR, OSHA 10, CDL, hurt-man rescue, and flagger.
6. Analyzing a situation, identify all relevant components, and apply critical-thinking skills in creating an appropriate plan when repairing power lines (troubleshooting).
7. Personify behaviors associated with teamwork, professionalism, and customer-service in the field.

8. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the care and procedures associated with gloving energized power lines.
9. Apply knowledge and safety procedures for working on underground power-line construction.
10. Explain the principles of and demonstrate proper installation and repair of transformer banks.
11. Apply basic math and electrical principles in the field.

This program involves a lot of physical activity and students will be in the outdoor lab area when it is hot, cold, wet, rainy, and windy. Students will climb poles and work on structures while carrying 30-50lbs of equipment and will be expected to perform various tasks such as mounting cross arms, climbing over obstacles, stringing wire, using various tools, and other such activities as related to the Electrical Distribution Systems field. Students will seek an internship between the first and second year over the summer where they will work with a crew in the field performing distribution system maintenance and repair tasks as directed. Students are expected to earn their Class A CDL without restriction (other than age) by the end of the first semester to prepare for the field and to be ready to learn how to run bucket and digger trucks during the second semester. Everything builds off previous knowledge, so students are expected to have excellent attendance, arrive each day in a condition to work, and follow the instructions they are given. Safety is a key focus of this program and anyone ignoring the safety rules may lose points, be excluded from lab activities, or even get dismissed from the program if the safety violations are serious enough.

Program enrollment is limited to 50 students between the two locations each fall, and decisions are made based on a points system and materials submitted by the application deadline. Students who get the most points are taken first and get their choice of location if seats are still available. Students who earn enough points to get in, but their campus of choice is full will be offered a position on the remaining campus if they indicated they would take either location. In the case of ties, the full-time instructors and director for the EDS program will review the applications using a special rubric to break the tie.

If you plan to apply to for a spot in the EDS program, please send your first and last name, preferred email, and a good contact number to [EDS@otc.edu](mailto:EDS@otc.edu). You will then be added to the contact list and receive a complete set of the current application items. This will include the points list, a document that explains how to get each set of points for the application process, and other key items. You will also receive important updates/reminders about the application process.

All questions about the program should be directed to [EDS@otc.edu](mailto:EDS@otc.edu) or you may call 417-447-7594 to speak with Kara Williamson.

## Contacts

### General:

- Contact the EDS program via email at [eds@otc.edu](mailto:eds@otc.edu) or call 417-447-7594.

### Lebanon Education Center:

- Keith Dinwiddie Tech Program Director
- Brian Layman EDS Instructor
- Kara Williamson EDS Administrative Assistant
- Denise Douglass Admissions Counselor
- Linda Rael EDS College Navigator

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### Richwood Valley Campus

- Keith Dinwiddie Tech Program Director
- Matt Ogden EDS Instructor
- Kara Williamson EDS Administrative Assistant
- Brandilyn Roussell Admissions Counselor
- Tracie Nicholson-Pesek EDS College Navigator

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### Abbreviations used in this document

- OTC – Ozarks Technical Community College
- EDS – Electrical Distribution Systems
- FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- AAS – Associates of Applied Science
- CLEP – College Level Examination Program
- CDL – Certified Driver’s License
- DOT – Department of Transportation
- DMV – Department of motor vehicles

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### *Why Ozarks Tech instead of a 16-week boot camp?*

- We often get the question, what is the difference between the EDS program at Ozarks Tech and a climbing boot camp? Here are some of the key differences:
  - At Ozarks Tech, students will have two years to learn what to do, why we do it, and how to do it safely.
  - We cover topics such as electrical theory, framing, REA specs, safety, CDL, first aid, teamwork, soft skills, resumes, cover letters, internships, underground power, overhead power, and fiber.
  - Our training program is overseen by an active advisory committee made up of professionals from various utilities, the IBEW electrical union, and contractors.

- Students get the opportunity to work in the field during the summer between the first and second year of the Ozarks Tech program, making a name for themselves in the field and getting real world experience.
- Climbing schools typically cover climbing only, with no focus on REA specs, framing, theory, etc.
- Many climbing schools do not offer the CDL as part of their training.
- Some employers will not hire students from a climbing school as they want new apprentices to have a 2-year degree.
- Many climbing schools cost nearly as much as the Ozarks Tech program with no CDL as a part of their program.
- For any wanting to go the climbing school route we always give the same advice. Please check with the employer you have in mind and make sure the training will meet their requirements so you can be considered for a position. Also, make sure the CDL training is a part of the climbing school's program or make plans to get it on your own.

#### ***How many people are in each class?***

- Seated lectures and lab courses taught by OTC faculty for the EDS program are capped at 25 students per location. (50 total taken into the program each year)
- We will take 5 alternates as well, to fill in any openings that occur between selection day and the start of classes in August. Alternates are expected to attend the fitting day, respond to any emails about their status in 3 business days, and sign up for the CDL classes. Any alternat not cycled in over the summer is guaranteed a spot in next year's cohort. During the year they are waiting for their cohort to begin, alternates are expected to work on general education classes related to the program.

#### ***When do classes start?***

- Each class group or cohort begins in the Fall semester. Those wanting/waiting to get into the program are advised to work on the general education classes related to the degree.
- The CDL seated portion starts before the regular semester begins, usually the first week of August.
- There is also a fitting date in June that students will need to attend.

#### **VACATION RESTRICTIONS**

- **Because of the CDL seated class, please *DO NOT* schedule any vacations in August.** With the new DOT laws, we no longer have any easy accommodation for those that miss the seated CDL classes.
- **Please do not schedule any vacations in the early to middle part of June.** The fitting date follows the acceptance date very closely and students who miss this day will have to work with the Tallman vendor to make up their fitting day. With lead times being so

long on supplies, a delay here could lead to a student not having equipment for the first day of classes. If you have questions on the specific date of the fitting, please contact us.

### ***How long are the classes?***

- Classes will be semester-long, 16 weeks each for fall and spring. There will be one required summer session (internship) during the program, and the length may vary. Year one students will attend on Monday and Tuesday, year two students will attend on Wednesday and Thursday.
- The first semester, those taking the two CDL classes, EDS 151 and 152, will be required to attend one full week before the fall semester begins and one extra day a week during the normal fall semester to drive at the vendor's location. The driving day schedule will be worked out during the summer around the time of the equipment fitting dates. The day for this will be either Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday. There are no weekend options currently.
- For the Classroom portion of the CDL, the ED 151 class, students need to reserve one week before the start of the regular fall semester for this training, usually the first full week of August. **Please, DO NOT schedule your summer vacations for August or early June.** We have had issues with the fitting days and CDL classes because of this and it is difficult to work around these issues. If you have specific questions about this portion, please contact us at [eds@otc.edu](mailto:eds@otc.edu)

### ***Are the classes during the day or in the evening?***

- Currently the EDS classes start as early as 7 am, primarily for CDL classes, but most start at 8:00 am and may run as late as 5:00pm. If the student takes their general education classes after the EDS classes on the same day, they may be at OTC as late as 8:00pm or 9:00pm. Appropriate general education classes will be offered for students after their EDS classes but can be taken at a different time or location as the student desires. Year one students will attend on Monday and Tuesday, and year two students will attend on Wednesday and Thursday.
  - NOTE: many think that online classes are an easy solution to the late days, not realizing all the work that goes into this type of learning. Unless a student has experience with online learning and/or knows they have the discipline to be successful in the online format, we recommend either seated classes or the Live Virtual Live (LVL) format. Your navigator will help you make these decisions once you get into the program.
- Students will observe the OTC holiday and semester schedule in relation to the EDS 151 and 152 courses. The driving portion of the CDL training starts at 7:00am at the vendor's location. The CDL training requires one extra day each week during the first fall semester for the driving portion and one week at the beginning of August for the seated portion. Currently the extra day must be completed on either Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday and a schedule will be worked out before the start of the fall semester. (Watch your OTC email if selected for the fall cohort)

- Clement Truck Driving School, who administers the EDS 151 and 152 courses in Lebanon, is open Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 3:30pm at 920 Alexis Ave., Lebanon, MO 65536. Their number is 417-532-3331.
- 160 Driving Academy administers the CDL classes for Richwood Valley. The seated class runs from 8:00am to 4:30pm and the driving portion runs from 7:00am to 3:30pm. The seated classes will be located at 2932 E. Sunshine Street in Springfield MO. The driving classes are at 2140 North Fox Hollow Dr., Nixa MO. Their number is 417-771-5842.

***Will some courses be online?***

- All general education courses are available online as well as seated.
- EDS courses will not be offered online.

***Where are classes held?***

- The Electrical Distribution Systems (EDS) program classes are taught by OTC instructors at either the OTC Lebanon Education Center or the OTC Richwood Valley Campus.
- General education courses are available at any OTC campus or online.
- Clement Truck Driving Academy will teach driver training classes (EDS 151 and 152) for Lebanon at their facility, 920 Alexis Ave., Lebanon, MO 65536, 417-532-3331.
- 160 Driving Academy will teach driver training classes (EDS 151 and 152) for Richwood Valley with the classroom portion at 2932 E. Sunshine Street, Springfield MO and the driving portion at 2140 North Fox Hollow Dr., Nixa MO, 417-715-5842.

***Is there Housing available?***

- OTC does not provide any housing for students, nor do we currently have any discount programs for such with outside entities. For those looking for housing near their campus of choice it is recommended to inquire with the appropriate Chamber of Commerce for current leads to secure apartments and such. Any information we do happen to come across will be shared with the students with the understanding that it is up to the student to verify such information and proceed as they see fit. OTC does not endorse nor verify any housing vendors, and any shared information is purely for information purposes. The student must do their due diligence in this matter, so they make an informed decision.

***Does this degree count as part of the Lineperson Apprenticeship?***

- This degree is considered a pre-apprenticeship program so typically it does not count as part of the apprenticeship time needed to become a journeyman. Some electrical providers have stated they would consider this degree as the first year or two years of the apprenticeship, so it is best to visit the specific company or companies you are considering working for to learn how they view the degree.

- Many electrical providers have gone to a policy of requiring applicants to have a degree related to the field before they consider interviewing an applicant. This degree meets that requirement and prepares students to hit the ground running as a useful member of the team, ready to fine tune their skills in the field.
- OTC is an approved educational facility under the Department of Labor apprenticeship guidelines.

***Does OTC help students with internships and job placement?***

- We do all we can to help students find internships, but we do not have reserved slots with various electrical providers at this time. Students who get into the program are strongly encouraged to reach out to electrical service providers in their area or ones they would like to work for early in the fall to see if they have any openings for internships.
- Students will receive instruction and help building a resume, effective cover letters, and interview techniques. This all happens in the first semester to help with the internship process and then we revisit this in the second year as students are getting ready to graduate.
- We have a career employment services sector that helps all OTC students and alumni track down jobs. We also have an active advisory committee, and we work on other avenues to keep up with job openings and opportunities there may be out there for students.
- Our graduates have had good luck finding jobs, many of them gaining employment within a few weeks of graduation. Students need to be open to moving to where there are openings as we have no way of predicting where the job will be from year to year. While some students are lucky enough to get their dream job near where they live currently, many will have to move for their first job in the field. There are many openings out there for the students who keep their options open.
- Some students are lucky enough to have internships that turn into job offers. Because of this we encourage students to work all the hours they can during the internship, especially if they can work the off days during the second year of training.

***What is Ozark Techs Marijuana use policy?***

- **Federal Law prohibits colleges receiving federal funding from allowing any form of marijuana use or possession on their property or as part of their activities. Therefore, OTC will continue to enforce its existing policies prohibiting students, employees, and members of the general public from possessing, using or distributing marijuana in any form on all OTC-owned or controlled property and at college-sponsored or college-supervised activities.**

- **Please note, using Marijuana will cause you to fail any DOT drug screening you take and will result in the loss of your CDL license. The loss of your CDL is a fireable offense for most utilities and Cooperatives. While it may be legal in Missouri, it is still not legal at the federal level.**
  - Currently there are no known exemptions to this, even for those utilizing Marijuana as a medical treatment. Any further questions along this line would be best directed to the Department of Transportation (DOT).
  - Those who use CBD may test positive for THC on their drug screen, so please keep that in mind.
  - Be wary of secondhand Marijuana smoke as well.
- **A CDL driver who tests positive on a DOT drug test or refuses to take a DOT drug test, must successfully complete the return-to-duty (RTD) process with a DOT qualified substance abuse professional (SAP). The requirements for the RTD process are found in 49 CFR Part 40, Subpart O. See 49 CFR 382.501, 382.503.**

***Are there any special admission requirements for this major?***

- This is a selective admission program based on a points system. The top scoring students are accepted into the program first, with ties being broken by a committee's review of the applications.
- A valid driver's license from any state is required.
- Students must be able to maintain a driving record that is *eligible* for Missouri Class A commercial driver's license (CDL) without restriction. The CDL licensing requires a DOT physical examination and a state certified birth certificate or valid passport. Additional fees for CDL licensure will apply.
- Students must have a negative drug screen and the ability to pass drug screenings as required by the CDL training/DOT.
- Students must be able to climb wooden pole structures, work at heights, and lift/carry 30 pounds or greater. In addition, walking, standing, some pulling, pushing, stooping, kneeling, and reaching are required. There is also exposure to oil, dirt, water, and weather extremes.
- Students must be able to properly utilize the safety equipment used for climbing the poles and keep said equipment in good working order throughout the course. Training on how to use the safety equipment will be provided during the courses. The safety equipment is rated for a maximum weight of 350 pounds, which includes the work tools as well as the student's weight.
- There will be a safety equipment fitting day and possibly one or two other special meetings that students in the program will be required to attend. If students are unable to

make the required meeting(s), they will be responsible for certain tasks on their own time or risk removal from the program if they do not complete said tasks in a timely manner.

- If a student is accepted to the program and must back out for any reason, they need to notify the program director immediately. Failure to do so will make a student ineligible for reapplication to the program.

#### ***How do I apply for the EDS program and what else will I need to do?***

- You should start by sending your name, phone number, and an email address you monitor to [eds@otc.edu](mailto:eds@otc.edu) to get a copy of the current application packet and to be added to the contact list for the cohort you wish to apply for.
- Next, applying for PRE EDS program will allow you to get a student number in 24 to 48 hours. You can do this by going to [www.OTC.edu](http://www.OTC.edu) and search for Apply in the search bar or clicking on the ‘Apply Now’ tab on the left-hand side of the search bar. This step is not required but is recommended.
- Watch the following videos so you can see how to fill out the application. Please keep in mind that you can leave and come back to the application as many times as you need before submitting your application.
  - Creating an account: <https://youtu.be/ODKN2Tv-ov4>
  - Completing the application: <https://youtu.be/dUoJrMS-HC8>
- Due to the nature of the program, there is no path for a student to start mid-way through, thus if a student drops out early on, there is no way to fill that spot in the cohort. The admission process is a point-based system that assigns points to items we have found that foster student success. In the case of ties, the full-time instructors and director for the EDS program will review the applications using a special rubric to break the tie.
- You will need to get a DOT physical *or* provide a copy of your Class A CDL without restriction as a part of the application. This is a key point of the application and a disqualifier if not present in your application. If you have trouble getting a DOT physical due to your age, you are expected to let us know this and provide a sports physical. As soon as you turn 18 you are expected to get and submit the DOT physical and should you be accepted into the program and fail the DOT physical, you will lose your spot in the fall cohort.
  - ***NOTE:*** *If you are color blind you may have to go through special testing to pass the DOT physical. If you have had a seizure in the last 30 years or muscular dystrophy, you will not pass the DOT physical. If you have high blood pressure the physical will only be good for one year instead of two.*

- You can get the DOT physical and drug screening at a local location, or you may work with one of the following:
  - KT Health Clinic  
2032 E Kearney St Suite 108  
Springfield, MO 65803  
417-832-8678  
8a.m.-3p.m.  
No Appointment Walk in  
DOT physical \$100 Drug Screen 10 panel \$65
  - Fordland Medical Clinic  
1059 Barton Dr  
Fordland, MO 65652  
417-767-2273  
DOT physical \$65 Drug Screen 10 Panel is \$45
  - Rolla Family Clinic  
1060 C South Bishop Ave  
Rolla, MO 65401  
573-426-5900  
Monday-Wednesday 9 a.m.-7 p.m. closed for lunch @ 1:30 pm-2:30 p.m.  
Walk in, no Appointment  
No DOT physical Drug Screen \$42
  - Direct Primary Care  
2220 S. Jefferson Ave  
Lebanon, MO 65536  
417-531-0410  
No DOT physical Drug Screen \$25
  - Bays Chiropractic Clinic  
212 Vance Rd.  
Lebanon, MO 65536  
417-531-6251  
DOT physical \$80 No Drug Screen
  - Lake Regional Clinic  
755 Cowan Dr.  
Lebanon, MO 65536  
417-532-2805  
Schedule Ahead if you do not want to wait/will accept walk-in M-TH 7:30-4  
NO FRIDAYS  
DOT physical \$70 Drug Screen \$35

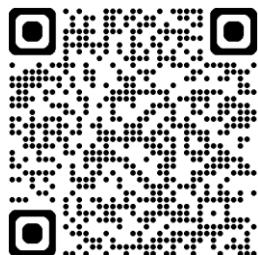
- You must submit a copy of your driving record as part of your application. This is another verification to make sure there are no issues with getting or keeping your Class A CDL. DUI, DWI, and speeding tickets more than 15 mph over the speed limit are items that cause issues, to name a few.
- Fully and carefully read both this document, the FAQs, and the Application document to make sure there are no issues you need to inquire about. If you run into anything that you think might be a problem, please email [eds@otc.edu](mailto:eds@otc.edu) or call 417-447-7594.
- Gather the required documentation on as many items as you can from the points list and submit them via the OTC EDS application. You can log into the application as many times as you need to before finally submitting and this is where you will upload the various documentations.
  - *NOTE: please keep a copy of everything you submit and the original copy of your DOT physical. You will want to maintain a copy of everything in case something is lost in the submission process and you must have a copy of your DOT physical to get your CDL permit and license.*
- **Adobe Scan** is a free application for smart phones that allows you to convert pictures into a document and send as PDF files. This is the recommended method for uploading your application materials. You can use the following URL link to learn how to download the free app onto your smart phone or laptop.

### **Android & Google Play**

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.adobe.scan.android&pcampaignid=web\\_share](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.adobe.scan.android&pcampaignid=web_share)

### **Apple Store**

[Adobe Scan: PDF & OCR Scanner on the App Store](#)



- We often receive more applications than we have positions for, so there is a fair amount of competition for spots in the program each year. Do not leave easy points out of your application and make sure to double check everything before you submit your application.

- While you are waiting to get into the program, it is highly recommended to work on the general education classes related to the degree. If you are taking classes outside of OTC, please provide a copy of your unofficial transcript with your application. If you are a high school student taking dual credit, please have the high school counselor send an official email or letter to upload with your application. Only courses that you have completed with a passing grade will count towards your application. You can submit your application before you finish any spring classes you may be taking and, in that case, please send us an unofficial copy of your transcript or a letter of completion with grade from your counselor as soon as possible after the semester ends. Anything submitted after you have completed your application must be emailed to [eds@otc.edu](mailto:eds@otc.edu)
- **Monitor your email!** Before you are accepted into the program and your status once the application decisions are made will go to the email account you provided for our contact list. You will have 3 business days to accept your position in the program before we look at awarding it to another student. After the decisions are made and the initial email is sent out, all official emails will go to your OTC account. Also, important things such as program updates, financial aid needs/awards, scholarship awards, and everything else important will go to your OTC account and we expect every student in the program to monitor their OTC email **DAILY**. Please use the links below to add Outlook to your phone and then set up your OTC account as soon as you can to easily keep up with things.

The QR codes or URL link below will help you download Outlook for your smartphone.



Microsoft Outlook for Apple

[Microsoft Outlook on the App Store](#)



Microsoft Outlook for Android

[Microsoft Outlook - Apps on Google Play](#)

### ***What do I need to know about the CDL license?***

- The electrical distribution field requires workers to maintain a Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to drive the bucket and digger trucks in the field. We have been told repeatedly that employers will not hire anyone without their Class A CDL and will fire anyone that cannot keep their CDL license. Because of this the Class A CDL without restrictions (other than age) is a key part of our degree and grounds for dismissal of any student who cannot earn this license.
- When it comes to the CDL license, there are two basic paths a student can take.
  - Students will have the opportunity to earn this license by taking the EDS 151 and EDS 152 course through OTC in the fall of their first year. This path is an all or nothing path requiring students to take both classes.

- The EDS 151 will happen the first full week in August and requires 5 full days at the vendor's site. **Because of the CDL seated class, please DO NOT schedule any vacations in August.**
  - The EDS 152 will require one extra day each week for the 16 week fall semester. The driving day will either be a Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday and the schedule for this will be worked out over the summer before classes begin.
  - Having your CDL permit does not change the training requirements.
  - Vendors will likely require students to get another drug screening as a part of their CDL training to meet state requirements.
  - If there are open seats left after the EDS cohort has signed up for classes, the open spots may be offered to any PRE-EDS students that wish to take the CDL training. These students must have a DOT physical and negative drug screen on record with the EDS program.
- Students can earn their CDL license on their own, with completion of said training by no later than the midpoint of their first fall semester.
  - Students will provide a picture of the front and back of their license to get credit for the EDS 151 and EDS 152 courses.
  - Students should avoid vendors that do not give proper training. Our vendors provide 40 hours of seated and at least 80 hours of driving time to give you an idea of a good training program.
  - Students choosing this option are fully responsible for the completion of this training. Failure to secure your CDL license is grounds for exclusion from the internship course and ultimately dismissal from the program. There is no place built into the EDS program to 'make up' this training should a student fail to complete the training on their own.
  - If you have questions on this path, please email [eds@otc.edu](mailto:eds@otc.edu)
- Students must be able to maintain a driving record that is *eligible* for Missouri Class A commercial driver's license (CDL) without restriction. The CDL licensing requires a DOT physical examination and a state certified birth certificate or valid passport. Additional fees for CDL licensure will apply.
  - If you are color blind, you will need to tell the DOT physical examiner so they can do deeper testing to see if you can designate colors enough to determine stop lights and such.
  - **If you have had a seizure, have a seizure condition, Becks, or some type of Muscular Dystrophy, you will not be able to pass the DOT physical.**
  - If you are under 18 you may not be able to get a DOT physical, so a sports physical will be accepted until your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. You will be required to complete a DOT Physical on or right after your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to meet the application requirements.
  - You can get the DOT physical and drug screening at a local location, or you may work with any of the places listed previously in this document.

- Students with a DUI or DWI less than a year old will not be able to train at Clement Truck Driving Academy.
- If you have any questions, please contact [eds@otc.edu](mailto:eds@otc.edu) to see what your options are.
- Vendor information:
  - Clement Truck Driving Academy will teach driver training classes (EDS 151 and 152) for Lebanon at their facility, 920 Alexis Ave., Lebanon, MO 65536, 417-532-3331.
  - 160 Driving Academy will teach driver training classes (EDS 151 and 152) for Richwood Valley with the classroom and driving portion at 2140 North Fox Hollow Dr., Nixa MO, 417-715-5842.
  - EDS 151 & 152 Course fees will cover the training costs for a Missouri Class A CDL. The CDL licensing requires a DOT physical examination, a DOT drug screen, and a state-certified birth certificate or valid passport.
  - The cost of the DOT physical (\$65 and up), drug screen (\$15 and up), CDL driving permit (\$44.00), and CDL license fee (\$83.00) will not be covered in the course fees.
  - The lab fees for the CDL courses total \$4600 for those taking the classes with Clement and \$4675 for those taking the classes with 160 Driving Academy and there will be tuition and other normal OTC fees for the EDS 151 & 152 CDL courses.
  - Once you have earned your permit you will be required to take a DOT drug test, and this can cost \$15 and up. The Vendor you are working with will have the details on this part.
    - 160 typically will give you a form directing you to KT Health for a drug screen. This form makes the test cost free to students.
    - Clement typically will direct you to Direct Primary Care during the seated course for a drug screen. The cost is around \$15 and is the student's responsibility

- **Please note, using Marijuana will cause you to fail any DOT drug screening you take and will result in the loss of your CDL license. The loss of your CDL is a fireable offense for most utilities and Cooperatives. While it may be legal in Missouri, it is still not legal at the federal level.**

- Currently there are no known exemptions to this, even for those utilizing Marijuana as a medical treatment. Any further questions along this line would be best directed to the Department of Transportation (DOT).
- Those who use CBD may test positive for THC on their drug screen, so please keep that in mind.

- Be wary of secondhand Marijuana smoke as well.
- ***A CDL driver who tests positive on a DOT drug test or refuses to take a DOT drug test, must successfully complete the return-to-duty (RTD) process with a DOT qualified substance abuse professional (SAP). The requirements for the RTD process are found in 49 CFR Part 40, Subpart O. See 49 CFR 382.501, 382.503.***
- EDS 151 & 152 Course fees will cover the training costs for a Missouri Class A CDL. The CDL licensing requires a DOT physical examination, a DOT drug screen, and a state-certified birth certificate or valid passport.
  - The cost of the DOT physical (\$65 and up), drug screen (\$15 and up), CDL driving permit (\$41.00), and CDL license fee (\$77.00) will not be covered in the course fees.
  - The lab fees for the CDL courses total \$4600 for those taking the classes with Clement and \$4675 for those taking the classes with 160 Driving Academy and there will be tuition and other normal OTC fees for the EDS 151 & 152 CDL courses.
- Once you have earned your permit you will be required to take a DOT drug test, and this can run \$55 and up. The Vendor you are working with will have the details on this part.
  - 160 typically will give you a form directing you to KT Health for a drug screen. This form makes the test cost free to students.
- Clement typically will direct you to Direct Primary Care during the seated course for a drug screen. The cost runs around \$15 and is the student's responsibility

#### ***What if I already hold a valid Missouri Class A Commercial Driver's License?***

- Students who already have a valid Missouri Class A CDL will not enroll in the CDL lecture or lab courses (EDS 151 & EDS 152). Persons with this credential will need to provide evidence in their program application materials. ***The states of Illinois, Maryland and South Carolina will not accept a Missouri CDL to be transferred to that state.*** If a student has a valid license from another state, it will work in Missouri for employment.
- The current procedure is to provide a copy of your current Class A CDL with no restrictions and negative drug screening that is less than a year old to get credit for prior learning for the EDS 151 & 152 class.

#### ***What are the lab components?***

- Approximately 80% to 90% of the student's time will be spent in the lab area for the EDS program where they will practice physical skills related to the electrical distribution field. Examples include climbing poles, creating mock power grids, hanging cross arms, setting and removing poles, and running bucket and digger trucks. Please note that the lab areas are typically outside, though we do have some indoor lab spaces. Students will be expected to work in all kinds of weather and temperatures, same as they will encounter in the field.

- Course fees will cover consumable costs associated with fuel, equipment operation, maintenance, and demonstration/simulation activities.
- EDS 151 & 152 Course fees will cover the training costs for a Missouri Class A CDL. The CDL licensing requires a DOT physical examination, a DOT drug screen, and a state certified birth certificate or valid passport.
  - The cost of the DOT physical (\$65 and up), drug screen (\$15 and up), CDL driving permit (\$41.00), and CDL license fee (\$77.00) will not be covered in the course fees.
  - The lab fees for the CDL courses total \$4600 for those taking the classes with Clement and \$4675 for those taking the classes with 160 Driving Academy and there will be tuition and other normal OTC fees for the EDS 151 & 152 CDL courses.
- Once you have earned your permit you will be required to take a DOT drug test, and this can run \$55 and up. The Vendor you are working with will have the details on this part.
  - 160 typically will give you a form directing you to KT Health for a drug screen. This form makes the test cost free to students.
  - Clement typically will direct you to Direct Primary Care during the seated course for a drug screen. The cost runs around \$15 and is the student's responsibility.

***Do students begin lineworker activities immediately after enrolling in the EDS program?***

- Yes! Full-time students will be outside climbing utility poles the first day of classes. As soon as students are proficient enough in climbing, they will start to work on installing components and building structures related to the field in our training pole yard. From there we branch out into equipment operation and more advanced topics related to the field. OTC wants students to begin training as soon as possible so they can complete their degree in two years.

***What degree will a student complete?***

- This degree will be an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Electrical Distribution Systems Technology.

***How long does the entire degree take?***

- To earn this degree, students must earn 65 credits. Students who can take 17 credit hours per 16 week semester are available for one summer semester course (3 credit hours) can complete the degree in two years.

***What would be grounds for dismissal from the EDS program?***

- Dishonesty in any part of the application process and throughout the student's tenure in the program to include academic dishonesty.
- Engaging in harassment, hazing, and/or sexual misconduct of fellow students or OTC employees.

- Violation of the Police 5.15-Standards of Student Conduct found here: <https://about.otc.edu/policies/article-v-student-services/5-15-standards-of-student-conduct/>
- Any act which compromises the safety of the student or their peers.
- Testing positive on the drug screen, to include Marijuana, or failing to acquire a Class A CDL with no restrictions (other than age based).
- Engaging in unsafe acts during the internship portion that puts the student or their coworkers at risk.
- Multiple failures to show up to internship on time and in a condition to work or excessive cell phone use that results in early termination of an internship.
- Failure to adhere to the agreed upon readmission action plan as defined under ‘Can I drop out and come back later?’ section below.
- Smoking, vaping, chewing, or any other use of tobacco in either the lab area or classroom environment.

***Can I drop out and come back later?***

- If you begin the program and decide to leave OTC or change to another program, it is highly recommended to finish the semester you are currently enrolled in, to prevent issues with financial aid and other such matters involved with course completion. Often students who change their minds are deep enough into the semester there will be no refund of tuition, so you might as well get the most you can for your money.
- If you want to have the option of returning, you need to meet with the program director to find out the requirements to re-enter the program and the best way to exit the program to be eligible for return.
- For those that leave the program and return, you will have to work out a readmission action plan with the program director. The purpose of this plan is to make sure there is a clear graduation strategy and there are no barriers to completion.
- Students who leave the program are ***NOT*** guaranteed a spot to return to, nor is acceptance back into the program guaranteed. Students who have been out of the program for more than a semester may be required to resubmit their application packet, compete for a spot in the program again, complete their CDL, and/or similar tasks to ensure success.
- Students dismissed from the program may not be eligible to return, depending on the dismissal reason. Students dismissed for safety violations or inability to earn a CDL are considered ineligible for readmittance to the EDS program.

### ***What type of gear or supplies will I need?***

- **Equipment Kit:** The equipment kit typically runs around \$3000 with taxes and can be charged through the OTC bookstore. The kit contains:
  - **Climbing Tools in Kit:** Equipment Bag, EZ Rider Lineman Belt, EZ Squeeze with Tough Rope Fall Protection System, Aluminum Climbers, Climber Pads, Snap-On Gaff Guard 5 Pocket Tool Holster, Nut & Bolt Bag, Full Brim Hard Hat, Handline Carrier, Secondary Rope Lanyard.
  - **Hand Tools in Kit:** Fiberglass Rip Hammer, Adjustable Wrench 10", 2 Piece SAE Ratcheting Wrench Set, Demolition Screwdriver, Fiberglas Folding Ruler, Skinning Knife, Lineman Pliers, 5-in-1 Lineworker Wrench, Clear Safety Glasses, Tinted Safety Glasses, and Pump Pliers.
  - There is a flyer in the digital packet that outlines all the current tools in the kit and gives a good idea of what all the students will receive.
- **Other needed items:** Leather gloves, rain gear, long sleeve shirts, and deep heel climbing boots with a steel shank in the sole.
  - We have also worked out a deal with HardHat Gear stores in Ozark and Springfield MO for boots and they will be present on the fitting day.
  - We have Youngstown for gloves, and they will be present on the fitting day with a Kevlar lined glove we require and another style that is optional.
  - Students will order one button up and one Carhart long sleeve t-shirt on the fitting day with the EDS logo on them. These are used for climbing and any events the students go to for the EDS program. Students will have the chance to order extras if they choose.
  - Items ordered on the fitting day will be charged to the student's account, so no money is needed that day.
- **Fitting Day:** There will be a required attendance equipment fitting day shortly after the close of the application date in June. Those accepted into the program or designated as alternates are required to be fitted for a climbing belt, gloves, and select your size for the climbing shirt and any of the optional gear. Those purchasing their equipment through the bookstore will make their order that day, but no payment is required at that time. The equipment will be charged to your student account in late July or early August.
- **If you have your equipment already:** Those that have their equipment already will need to bring it to the fitting day for instructor approval to use it in the course and to confirm the belt is the appropriate size. If any of your equipment is deemed unsafe, you will need to replace the faulty items.

### ***What is the total cost of the degree?***

- Students will be charged the normal OTC Tier II tuition rate for classes, which is currently \$146 per credit hour for in-district students for the 2026-2027 school year. This figure does not include general OTC fees which vary based on the semester and total hours taken.

- The lab fees for the commercial driver's license instruction are \$4600 for Clement and \$4675 for 160 Driving Academy. This is the total for the lab portion of the program. These fees are comparable to most driver training schools.
- The equipment kit typically runs around \$3200 with tax and can be charged through the OTC bookstore.
- Boots, gloves, shirts, and rain gear will run between \$200 and \$400 total, depending on the styles ordered and quantities.

*Please see [\*\*Program Costs Tab\*\*](#) for cost of program each semester:*

- These fees are all inclusive, assuming a student completes the lab components in the average amount of time needed by students. If a student is unable to complete the lab portion of the commercial driver's license course within the scheduled hours, then the student would be charged for additional training time at the vendor's current rate. The CDL licensing requires a DOT physical examination and a state certified birth certificate or valid passport. Additional fees for CDL licensure will apply.

*Can students use Financial Aid, A+ Scholarships, or Veterans benefits?*

- The program is financial aid eligible. Students are eligible for all state and federal aid, foundation, and institutional scholarships. Keep in mind all grants, loans and scholarships will have dollar limits. Here is a good link to check out that will help to make sense of how to pay for college: <https://students.otc.edu/payingforcollege/> .
- To apply for OTC scholarships, please go to <http://students.otc.edu/financialaid/scholarships/> to learn more. There are deadlines for application, so it is highly recommended you check this out right away and plan accordingly. You are welcome to apply for OTC scholarships even if you have not been accepted into the program yet. If you need assistance, stop by the office of your campus of choice or email us at [eds@otc.edu](mailto:eds@otc.edu) .
- Students who are qualified A+ scholarship recipients will be eligible to use those funds toward the cost of the program. These dollars are applied to the tuition and common course fees. **This scholarship does *not* cover lab and equipment fees.** This means the CDL lab fee and student equipment kit purchased in the first semester are not covered by A+ funding.
- Veteran training benefits can be used for this program and students using this funding will need to go to <https://students.otc.edu/veteran/> to learn more about the process. Veteran/Military students can also call 417-447-6968 for more information.
- We have been able to use part of a student's loan amount for the second semester in the first semester. Students who wish to do this will need to enroll in the EDS 151 and 152 and then work with your navigator to get your spring loan amount moved to the fall.

- Students can apply for a secondary loan to help with the costs of the first semester. You will start this process with your navigator and then watch your OTC email and your financial aid section of MyOTC to finish the process.

***What college credit can transfer?***

- OTC will work with our four-year partner universities to develop a possible transferable degree option. This is still work in progress.
- The following general education courses will transfer to any public college or university in the State of Missouri under the CORE 42 statewide general education transfer program:
  - English Composition I (ENG 101); substitutions allowed include ENG 100/100A, ENG 102 and ENG 150
  - Public Speaking (COM 105) or Interpersonal Communication (COM 200)
  - American Government and Politics (PLS 101)
  - TEC 108 or higher Math
  - Applied Technical Physics (TES 140), Intro to Physics (PHY 105) or equivalent 4 credit science with lab.
  - Intro to Ethics (PHL 105) or any core 42 elective
  - Any of the allowable substitutions on page two of the EDS AAS Block Diagram

***Can students test out of any courses?***

- Students may also take the CLEP exam to test out of ENG 101, MTH 130, HST 120/130. For more information, please visit: [http://academics.otc.edu/media/uploads/sites/26/2015/12/CLEP\\_Equivalences\\_at\\_OTC.pdf](http://academics.otc.edu/media/uploads/sites/26/2015/12/CLEP_Equivalences_at_OTC.pdf)
- Students may also ask to apply for any eligible credit earned through dual credit courses by providing a transcript showing the course name and grade. These will be evaluated and applied on a case-by-case basis by the registrar's office.

***Do students need their own computers?***

- Although it is possible to be successful without a personal computer, computers and the Internet are used. Computers are available at all OTC locations for student use. Computer costs will not be covered by financial aid up front, but any refund given from financial aid can be used for the purchase of the item (if there is a refund).
- All necessary equipment, excluding textbooks and the student's personal tools and safety gear, will be provided through the course fees.

***What is the preferred course sequence?***

- Please see the current EDS block diagram provided in your digital and/or hard copy packet for a complete list of course, their sequence, and any acceptable alternates.

## **Questions?**

- If you have reached this point and still have questions, please email [EDS@otc.edu](mailto:EDS@otc.edu) or call 417-447-7594.

**THANK YOU for taking the time to read all this information!**



I (please print name) \_\_\_\_\_ have fully read the Frequently Asked Questions document and understand that I am responsible for the information contained herein. I also understand that if I have any questions about these items, I should contact the EDS program via email at [eds@otc.edu](mailto:eds@otc.edu) or call 417-447-7594.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
(please sign the line provided and return this page with your paperwork)

Note: you can send an email to [eds@otc.edu](mailto:eds@otc.edu) acknowledging you have read the Frequently Asked Questions document and agree with the statement above