



## How to Get Started

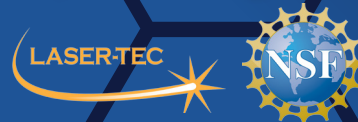
1. Find a college near you that offers a photonics program; [laser-tec.org](http://laser-tec.org) or [op-tec.org](http://op-tec.org)
2. Contact the VA office at the college(s) of your choice
3. Identify your Educational Benefits; [benefits.va.gov](http://benefits.va.gov)
  - Post 9-11 GI Bill
  - Montgomery GI Bill
  - GI Bill Selected Reserve
  - Reserve Educational Assistance
  - \$600 Buy-up Program
  - Survivors & Dependents Assistance
4. Apply online at [gibill.va.gov](http://gibill.va.gov) or call 1-888-GI BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)
  - Application form 22-1990
  - Transfer of entitlement form 22-1990E
  - Application for dependents form 22-5490
  - Vocational rehab: see counselor for form 28-1905
5. Follow the steps to be admitted to the college
6. Register for classes

# NAVY

Military Occupational Specialties  
Experience in these military occupational specialties make a good fit for a career in photonics.

Aviation Structural Mechanic, Safety Equipment  
Aviation Support Equipment Technician  
Aviation Electronics Technician  
Naval Aircrewman, Avionics  
Cryptologic Technician, Maintenance, Technical  
Electricians Mate  
Electronics Technician, Nuclear Power  
Electronics Technician, Submarine, Communications, Navigation  
Electronics Technician  
Fire Controlman  
Fire Control Technician, Submarine  
Gunner's Mate  
Gas Turbine System Technician, Electrical, Mechanical  
Interior Communications  
Information Systems Technician  
Machinists Mate, Non-Nuclear, Submarine Auxiliary  
Machinists Mate, Nuclear Power  
Machinists Mate, Weapons  
Sonar Technician

More on [mynextmove.org/vets](http://mynextmove.org/vets)



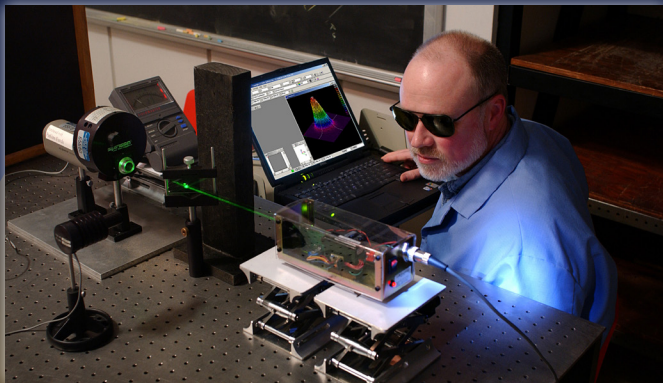
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[www.laser-tec.org](http://www.laser-tec.org)

# NAVY VETERANS

Advance Your Military Training with a Degree and 21st Century Career in Photonics!







## What is Photonics?

Photonics involves cutting-edge uses of lasers, optics, fiber-optics and electro-optical devices in numerous and diverse fields of technology.

## Why is Photonics Important?

Lasers and other light beams are the “preferred carriers” of energy and information for many applications.

The applications of photonics as an “enabling” technology are extremely broad. From an educational standpoint, this means that the infusion of one or two photonics courses into two-year postsecondary programs in related technologies can qualify graduates for a far wider variety of jobs and increase the global competitiveness of the American workforce.



## Photonics Industry Needs Trained Professionals

The industry is experiencing increasing growth in all sectors, and the demand for well-educated technicians has risen faster than supply to fill those positions.

# \$62,230

## National Median Salary for Photonics Technicians 2017\*

A two-year college degree is necessary for a photonics technician to be successful.



\*source: onetonline.org



## Where do Photonics Technicians Work?

Trained professionals in the photonics field are needed in numerous photonics-enabled fields, such as:

- ◆ Defense and National Security
- ◆ Advanced Manufacturing and Automation
- ◆ Analytical Equipment and Manufacturing
- ◆ Laser and Optical Equipment Manufacturing
- ◆ Research and Development
- ◆ Communications and Information Technology
- ◆ Healthcare

To learn more, visit:  
[laser-tec.org/discover-careers](http://laser-tec.org/discover-careers)

## Sample of Photonics Technicians' Tasks

Build, install, test, or maintain optical, electro-optical or fiber optic equipment, such as lasers, lenses, mirrors, fiber optic links using spectrometers, interferometers, or related equipment.