



How to Get Started

1. Find a college near you that offers a photonics program; laser-tec.org or op-tec.org
2. Contact the VA office at the college(s) of your choice
3. Identify your Educational Benefits; 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 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

AIR FORCE

Military Occupational Specialties

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

Aircraft Armament Systems
 Avionics Systems
 Tactical Aircraft Maintenance specialist
 Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Systems specialist
 Electrical Systems specialists
 Missile and Space Systems Electronic Maintenance specialist
 Missile and Space Systems Maintenance specialist
 Scientific Applications Specialist
 Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory
 Nondestructive Inspection specialist
 Ground Radar Systems specialist
 Biomedical Equipment specialist
 Aircraft Structural Maintenance
 Aircraft Metals Technology specialists
 Aircraft Hydraulic Systems specialist
 Electrical Power Production specialists
 Electronic Signals Intelligence Exploitation specialist
 Helicopter Maintenance specialists
 Special Vehicle Maintenance specialist
 Tactical Aircraft Maintenance specialist
 Vehicle and Vehicular Equipment Maintenance specialist

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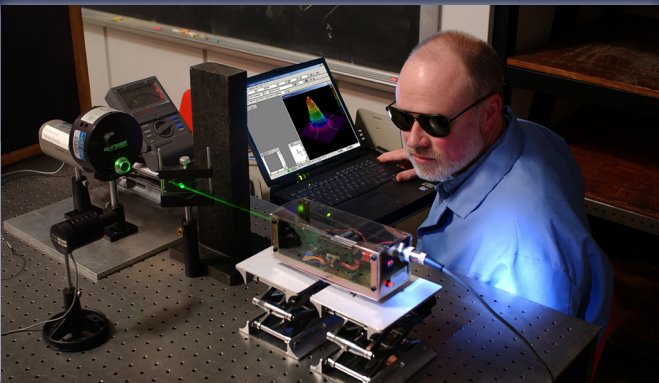


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www.laser-tec.org



AIR FORCE 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

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.