



## Press Set-Up Operator Apprentice (50-420-10) Effective 2025/2026

### Program Description

Press Set-up Operators are responsible for setting up and operating power presses to trim, punch, shape, notch, draw, or crimp metal, composite, or plastic stock: Assembles, installs, and align dies in press according to specifications, using feelers, shims, templates, bolts, clamps, and wrenches.

### Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

1. Comprehend basic dimensions while measuring with precision measurement tools.
2. Understand basic shop math.
3. Basic knowledge and understanding of fabrication, hydraulic press and/or punch operations including basic set up is desired.
4. Be able to work with various types of metal forming constraints with guidance.
5. Be able to read and understand blueprints and other shop drawing aids.
6. Practice safety conscious behavior.
7. Be able to visually inspect parts for non-conformance to blue prints.

### Essential Career Competencies

Gateway's six essential career competencies are the general attitudes and skills promoted and assessed by all programs. All Gateway graduates will develop skills in:

- Communication
- Professionalism and Career Management
- Cultural Competence
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Teamwork and Collaboration
- Technology Competence

### Get Started as an Apprentice

1. You should apply directly to employers, and entry requirement vary by employer.
2. If you need assistance finding an employer who will take you on as an apprentice, don't hesitate to get in touch with the local WI DWD-BAS Apprenticeship Training Representative at 414.216.8417 to find an employer who has been approved to train apprentices. You can also find apprenticeship employers at <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/ra/applicants.htm>.
3. Once your contract is in place with your employer and WI DWD-BAS, Gateway's Apprenticeship department will communicate with you regarding registration, classes and books.
4. You can contact Gateway's Apprenticeship department at [apprenticeship@gtc.edu](mailto:apprenticeship@gtc.edu) or 262.564.2954.

### Graduation Requirements

- \*Minimum of 2.0 ("C") or above for all required courses.
- Meet minimum hourly paid related instruction requirements per WI Registered Apprenticeship Contract.

### Notes

1. Students must be physically able to perform the job.
2. Students must be 18 years of age and submit official high school, GED, or HSED transcript including a graduation or passing date.
3. Students must complete all courses with a grade of "C" or better.
4. Must be able to lift up to 50lbs and push/pull 100 to 2500 lbs using carts and moving equipment.
5. Must wear protective shoes, safety glasses, gloves, shop shirt and ear protection while working around loud noises.

Gateway Technical College reserves the right to modify curriculum requirements for students who interrupt enrollment for one year or take over seven years to complete. Tuition and material fees are determined by the board of the Wisconsin Technical College System. Consult My Gateway for exact fee amounts. The District reserves the right to modify, cancel, or relocate course offerings in response to factors such as low enrollment, resource availability, or other relevant considerations to ensure high-quality educational experiences. Students will be notified in writing and are encouraged to meet with their Academic Advisor to adjust their academic plan.



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The course sequence shown on this sheet is the recommended path to completion. Courses will be scheduled in the terms indicated here.  
Taking courses in the order shown will help you stay on track and graduate according to your academic plan.  
Courses in this program may be offered in a variety or combination of formats (for example: in-person, video conferencing, online, etc.).

### Pathway to Success

Course	Course Name	Credits	Hours
*420-471	Machine Math Pre-Tech	1.00	36
*421-515	Blueprint Reading I/Metal Trades	1.00	36
*420-560	Machine Trades/Mathematics 3	1.00	36
*420-425	Shop Safety	.65	25
*420-334	Precision Measuring and Gauging	1.00	36
*420-519	Geometric Dimensioning & Tolerancing	.25	9
*420-329	Industrial Print Interpretation	2.00	72
*420-579	Visual Inspection	.20	8
*439-505	Stamping and Die Design Applications	1.00	36

### Training at a Glance

- Time to complete – Approximately 2 years
- On the job time – 4156 Hours
- Related Instruction Time – 294 Hours
- Additional training – First Aid and CPR Certifications; Transition to Trainer
- Consult the Wisconsin Bureau of Apprenticeship Standards website for more information

If you need assistance getting started, Gateway's Apprenticeship Department is happy to help.

QUESTIONS?

PLEASE CONTACT:

Gateway Technical College  
Apprenticeship Department  
262-564-2954

[apprenticeship@gtc.edu](mailto:apprenticeship@gtc.edu)

Notes associated with courses (identified by a superscript number at the end of the course title) are located on the front of the sheet.  
(\* ) indicates students must achieve a minimum of 2.0 ("C") or above for these major courses to meet graduation requirements.