



Job Situation

Cleanroom in electronics plant. Some teamwork. Very structured, routine. Reporting to Supervisor and Production Manager. Shiftwork.

Weekly Hours of Work

40

Overtime

As required

Monthly Salary

\$3,200

Student Loan – Owing

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

Duties

Set up process equipment. Adhere to cleanroom procedures. Operate and monitor process equipment. Assemble microelectronic components.

Prospects

Further specialization. Supervisory or management positions.

Job Title

Microelectronics Operator

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

9483

Job Description

The Microelectronics Process Equipment Operator is one of a new breed of manufacturing workers. High-tech operator jobs are becoming more skilled as more automation and robotics technologies are being introduced. These changes are taking place in response to the demand for higher quality and more competitive pricing. Robotics give more consistent quality and higher yields. This shift is reducing the number of boring repetitive jobs and replacing them with higher skilled, more challenging and interesting jobs.

These new jobs come along with some reorganizing of the process. Workers don't work alone at one very small part of a product, but as a team on a larger modular unit. There are training opportunities offered to entire teams. Communications, problem-solving and teamwork are emphasized as the production teams also participate in "quality circles" where they discuss and then make presentations to management of their findings and recommendations.

This is a long way from your first day on the job thinking how easy it was to make an amplifier! You can see that as long as the technology keeps changing, which you can count on, there will be new job classifications opening up that you can train for. The other possible option is to look for other types of work in the industry, or even this plant.

Increasingly, managers prefer to promote from within the company because employees already have a good knowledge of the operations, and the company has so much training invested in them. You've been wondering lately what your options would be if you learned business computer skills and took some courses to polish up your written language. It might be worth checking out.