

Machining & Tooling

Career **Connect**
CHOOSE YOUR PATH

POTENTIAL SALARY

Can make around \$62,000/year*

8/10

AVERAGE SALARY

\$47,615 per year

6/10

DEGREE REQUIREMENT

Many tool and die maker jobs only require a diploma

8/10

TIME COMMITMENT

You can earn a diploma in 3 semesters

8/10

JOB AVAILABILITY

Over 12,860 jobs in South Carolina

9/10

JOB SECURITY

Expected to grow by 7% through 2030*

8/10

The Career Score attempts to score each career relative to the other careers on this website. Salary info and other data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and [Salary.com](#) * Denotes info based on nationwide statistics

OVERVIEW

“CNC Machining” (CNC stands for “**computer numerical control**”) is a term that covers a few different types of skill sets. The three biggest ones are CNC Machining, CNC Programming, and Tool and Die Making.

CNC Machinists use tools such as lathes, milling machines, and grinders to create precision-cut metal parts. These computer-operated machines require a trained professional to operate them.

CNC Programmers are specially trained to use the software that guides CNC machines. They write the instructions for the machine to carry out. Programmers start with the final product in mind and then create instructions that the automatic machines use to make it.

Tool and Die Makers work very closely with workpiece dimensions, making sure the final product is perfectly up to spec. It's a very detail-oriented career, and one that is compensated very well in most industries.

EDUCATION

MACHINE TOOL DIPLOMA

 **13 CLASSES** (42 CREDIT HRS.)

MACHINE TOOL TECHNOLOGY DEGREE

 **20 CLASSES** (64 CREDIT HRS.)

MACHINE TOOL TECH. DEGREE - TOOL & DIE SPECIALIZATION

 **20 CLASSES** (65 CREDIT HRS.)