



Explore a Career as a

TOOL AND DIE MAKER

What do Tool and Die Makers do?

A tool and die maker is someone who sets up and operates a variety of computer-controlled or mechanically-controlled machines to produce precision metal parts, instruments, and tools. They work in machine shops, tool rooms, and on factory floors. Tool and die makers analyze specifications, lay out metal stock, set up and operate machine tools, and fit and assemble parts to make and repair dies, cutting tools, jigs, fixtures, gauges, and machinists' hand tools. Many tool and die makers use CAD, a specialized computer program, to develop products and parts. Designs are entered into computer programs that produce blueprints for the required tools and dies. Once these programs are developed, computer numerical control (CNC) machines follow the set of instructions contained in the program to produce the part. Machinists normally operate CNC machines, but tool and die makers often are trained to both operate CNC machines and write CNC programs and thus may do either task.

Training & Educational Opportunities

You will have plenty of employment opportunities as a tool and die maker but first you will have to complete specific training and earn a certificate. Students of tool and die making will complete courses in design and blueprint reading, welding, cutting tools, and CNC programming and operations. Some employers may prefer certification from The National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS), or from a reputable occupational certificate training program. Employers will also require candidates to have demonstrated proficiency in manufacturing technology either through previous experience or coursework.

As a Tool and Die Maker you will:

- Compute and verify dimensions, sizes, shapes, and tolerances of work pieces
- File, grind, and adjust parts so that they fit together properly
- Read blueprints, sketches, specifications, or CAD and CAM files for making tools and dies
- Set up, operate, and disassemble conventional, manual, and CNC machine tools
- Smooth and polish the surfaces of tools and dies
- Test completed tools and dies to ensure that they meet specifications

Jobs in Manufacturing are in demand in Kankakee County!

Kankakee County employment in the manufacturing industry is expected to increase through 2020.

Tool and Die Maker

Training Provider

The following certified training provider offers programs and certifications to train for a career as a tool and die maker:

- Kankakee Community College

Career scholarships may be available if you qualify.



Types of Employers

There are many types of employers looking to hire tool and die makers in Kankakee County, including:

- Hardware manufacturers
- Machine shops
- Motor vehicle parts manufacturers



Wages & Openings

Tool and Die Maker Employment Data for Kankakee County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$18.04
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$42.18
Average Annual Job Openings Kankakee County	~10
Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	16

Opportunities

After you receive your certificate as a tool and die maker, you will have many opportunities for additional certification and specialization, including:

- Die Maintenance Specialist
- Stamping Setup
- Tool, Die & Gauge Maker
- Tooling Engineer



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