What’s Your Goal?
If your goal is to join the field of Wastewater Treatment as a Plant Operator, obtain your certification as a licensed plant operator, or earn continuing education units to maintain an existing certification, then RACC’s Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Program will get you on the right path.

We Help You Get There With . . .
• Instructors who are certified operators and/or subject-matter experts
• Class size of 30 students or fewer
• Engaging classroom experiences
• Field trips to better understand treatment processes discussed in class

Program Description
Reading Area Community College offers a 180-hour certification program designed to prepare new operators for licensing in the high-demand field of wastewater treatment plant operators. The curriculum for the program was developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This program will prepare students for the DEP’s operator certification exams. Combining this program with work at a local treatment facility will prepare participants for licensing.

What You Will Learn
The Wastewater Treatment Operator program combines course work, on-site visits to facilities with classroom components, interactive class discussion with current certified operators, out-of-class assignments, and module-end exams. The program utilizes DEP-approved curriculum that is taught by certified operators and other qualified instructors. The course components also offer continuing education units (contact hours) necessary for certified operators to maintain their certifications.

Career Outlook
With a large portion of the current workforce nearing retirement age, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators are in demand with an expected increase of 2% in employment in Pennsylvania from 2012 to 2022 and 170 job openings every year in the state. Employees in this profession typically have a starting salary near $29,900 and an average salary of $43,700 per year.*

Admission Requirements
• Be a graduate of an approved secondary school or hold a high school equivalency diploma (GED®).
• Pass a reading and math assessment.
• Have a commitment to attendance policies and program requirements.

Want To Learn More?
• Visit www.racc.edu/STTC/water.aspx.
• Email Doug Keim at dkeim@racc.edu or call 610-372-4721, ext. 5176.

*Onetonline.org.
“The wastewater program caught my eye as something with a future. I contacted (the college) to ask some questions about the program and to schedule a tour of the Reading plant. After doing so, I felt this was a career path I could follow. This is a job with a future. It is not something that can be outsourced, it will always be needed.” – Jason Correll

Program Components

Component 1
Introduction to Wastewater Treatment
• Fundamentals of Wastewater Treatment
• General Math
• General Chemistry

Component 2
Wastewater Collection System
• Collection System
• Infiltration and Inflow/Wet Weather
• Pumps and Hydraulics
• Flow Meter
• Chemical Feed Systems

Component 3
Wastewater Core Requirements
• Applied Biology
• General Safety
• Ethics & Regulations

Component 4
Wastewater – Pretreatment, Permits, SOPs and Energy Efficiency
• Energy Efficiency
• SOP Preparation/NPDES Permit
• Discharge Monitoring Reports
• General Administration of Treatment Plants
• Industrial Pretreatment

Component 5
Wastewater - Lab and Maintenance
• Wastewater Lab Basics and Troubleshooting
• Treatment Plant Maintenance and Troubleshooting

Component 6
Wastewater – Treatment Types
• Ponds & Lagoons
• Trickling Filter Process
• Rotating Biological Contactors

Component 7
Wastewater – Land Applications & Solids Handling
• Land Application of Wastewater
• Solids Handling and Disposal
• Sequential Batch Recorders
• Biosolids

Component 8 & 9
Wastewater - Activated Sludge Treatment
• Activated Sludge Math
• Activated Sludge 1-4

Component 10
Wastewater – Advanced Topics
• Communication Techniques
• Disinfection and Chlorination
• Effluent Filtration
• Advanced Wastewater Treatment

Cost for the full 180-hour certification program for program year 2015-16 is $2,300. The second half of the program includes a scholarship opportunity. Cost for each 18-hour module is $235.