

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR PROGRAM

Welcome to this information session on the Heavy Equipment Operator Program.

Tonight, we'll introduce you to this 10-week fully accredited program designed to provide grade 12 students with the theoretical and practical skills needed to become entry-level equipment operators in the road building and heavy construction industry.

This dynamic program represents a unique opportunity for students interested in pursuing a well-paying, in-demand career path immediately after graduation.





A Powerful Partnership



Central Okanagan Public Schools

Ensuring the program aligns with graduation requirements while maintaining rigorous industry standards for grade 12 students.



Thompson Rivers University

Providing certified instruction through expert faculty and industry-recognized curriculum in heavy equipment operations.



Emil Anderson Construction

Supplying real-world training facilities, heavy equipment and industry experience.



Program at a Glance

1

Duration

April 14 - June 13, 2025 (10 weeks)

2

Classroom Location

Pearson Elementary Portable - 700 Pearson Rd, Kelowna

Monday - Friday for theoretical training

8:00am to 4:30pm

Laptops - Bring your own Device (if possible)

3

Practical Site

Emil Anderson Pit - 1620 Stevens Rd, West Kelowna

Monday - Friday for hands-on equipment training

7:30am to 5:30pm



A photograph showing two individuals, likely students or professionals, seated at a wooden desk. They are focused on reviewing documents. One person is holding a pen over a large sheet of paper, while the other is also looking at the documents. A calculator and a clipboard are visible on the desk, suggesting a financial or administrative context.

Program Investment

Tuition Sponsorship

SD23 and Community

Partners sponsor the majority of tuition costs, making this program an exceptional value for students interested in entering this high-demand field.

Student Contribution

Students pay \$960.00 which covers essential equipment and textbooks required for the program.

RESP Eligible

Once you receive confirmation of enrollment from Thompson Rivers University, check with your financial institution about using RESP funds to cover program costs.



Meet Bob Ryl:

TRU Program Instructor

Bob Ryl holds a Professional Instructors Diploma, a journeyman ticket, and an HEO CofQ with multiple endorsements. He brings extensive safety and civil experience in heavy equipment operation to his role as lead instructor at Thompson Rivers University. His industry knowledge ensures students receive relevant practical training.

"The construction industry is always looking for skilled, safety-conscious operators. My goal is to prepare students not just for their first job, but for a successful lifelong career in heavy equipment operation."



Program Schedule: April - June

1

April 14-25

Orientation, safety protocols, and introductory equipment operations. Students will complete classroom theory, equipment familiarization, and begin supervised practice with basic controls in a controlled environment.

2

April 28-May 9

Equipment certification training, traffic control person certification, and OFA Level 1 first aid. Students will learn proper signaling techniques, safety procedures for directing traffic, and essential first aid skills required on construction sites.

3

May 12-30

Intensive hands-on training at the Emil Anderson quarry site. Students will operate multiple equipment types including excavators, bulldozers, and loaders under supervision while practicing real-world construction scenarios and perfecting operational techniques.

4

June 2-13

Final practical assessments, performance evaluations, and job preparation assistance. Students will demonstrate proficiency in equipment operation, complete their portfolios, and receive guidance on résumé building, interview techniques, and employment connections.

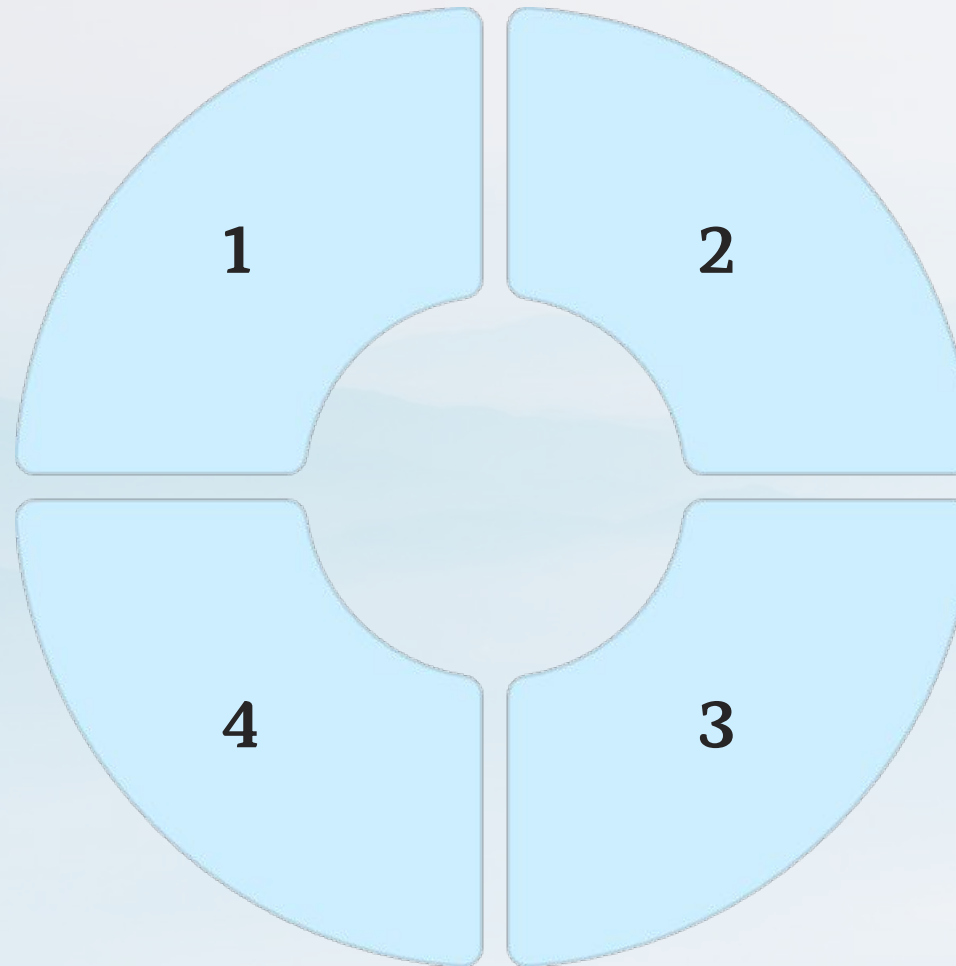
Program Theory Components

Worksite Health & Safety

Comprehensive coverage of safety protocols, environmental requirements, and regulatory standards essential for construction sites.

Certifications

Basic First Aid, BC Road Ready, and Traffic Control Person certification included in the program.



Equipment Knowledge

Detailed study of road building and heavy construction equipment operation, maintenance, and capabilities.

Technical Skills

Surveying, drainage, soil mechanics, geology, principles of excavation, and aggregate management fundamentals.

Hands-On Practical Training

Equipment Familiarization

Students begin with basic orientation to heavy equipment controls, safety features, and operational principles before operating machinery.

Supervised Operation

Progress to operating actual equipment under close instructor supervision in controlled training environments at the Emil Anderson quarry site.

Skill Development

Graduate to increasingly complex operation tasks and scenarios, developing precision and efficiency with various heavy equipment types.

Performance Assessment

Demonstrate competency through practical evaluations that simulate real-world construction site operations and requirements.



Focus on Safety

1

Personal Responsibility

Expected to report any unsafe condition or behavior

2

Following Standards

Meeting or exceeding WorkSafe BC regulations

3

Learning Procedures

Knowing safe work practices in all environments

Thompson Rivers University and SD23 are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students. Safety is not just a program component but a fundamental value that permeates every aspect of heavy equipment operation. Students who fail to follow safety protocols may face suspension from the program.

The safety standards taught meet or exceed the regulatory requirements of the WorkSafe BC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, preparing students for the rigorous safety expectations of the construction industry.

Physical Requirements

Strength and Stamina

Participants must be able to lift and carry tools, equipment, and materials weighing up to approximately 30 lbs. The nature of construction work requires physical strength compatible with handling heavy equipment and materials.

Physical Resilience

Students need to tolerate sustained sitting periods with exposure to vibration and jarring. Upper extremity mobility and strength are necessary to operate controls and handle tools and fluids.

Physical Agility

Adequate agility including climbing, stooping, crouching, and bending is required for safe equipment operation. Students must maintain balance and coordination to walk on uneven ground for up to 8 hours per day.



Heavy Equipment Training Equipment

Students will gain hands-on experience with various industry-standard heavy equipment including:



Articulating Rock Truck

Off-road hauling vehicle designed for challenging terrain and heavy-duty material transport



Excavator

Powerful digging machine for earthmoving and trenching operations



Dozer

Heavy tracked vehicle for pushing large quantities of soil and materials



Wheel Loader

Versatile machine for material handling, loading, and transportation on construction sites

Students will progressively learn operation techniques for each core piece of equipment, building both confidence and competence throughout the program. Skidsteer and compactor experience will also be included in the program.

Recommendations for Success

100%

Commitment

Students must be fully committed to the intensive 10-week program with perfect attendance and dedication to learning.

70%

Minimum Grade

A minimum passing grade of 70% is required in each course component to successfully complete the program.

8

Hours Daily

Be prepared for full 8-10 hour days of intensive learning in both classroom and quarry environments.



Credentials Received

1 Industry Certification

Graduates receive SkilledTrades BC Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Foundation and Heavy Equipment Operator Level 1 CofQ, providing immediate employment qualifications.

3 Recognized Training

The program's fully accredited status ensures graduates have credentials that are recognized throughout the construction industry in British Columbia and beyond.

2 High School Credits

Secondary school students will earn 16 credits towards Grade 12 graduation, supporting their path to completion while gaining valuable career skills.



Meet Stan Maluk:

Emil Anderson Construction

Stan Maluk, C.E.T., GSC, serves as the Pre-Construction Manager of Emil Anderson Construction, a key program partner.

"The construction industry offers tremendous opportunities for skilled operators. We are always looking for good people to join our team. We do plan to use this program as a showcase for new talent, so we will likely select a few program graduates to join us in entry level positions at several of our sites throughout the province."



Career Opportunities



Heavy equipment operators enjoy diverse career paths in the construction industry. They run the equipment used in building and maintaining roads, bridges, airports, gas and oil pipelines, tunnels, buildings, and other infrastructure projects.

Graduates may find employment with heavy equipment contractors, public works departments, construction companies, pipeline operations, logging businesses, cargo-handling facilities, and more. The industry continues to grow, offering stable, well-paying positions for properly trained and certified operators.

Program Contacts

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