

Wind Power System Operation & Maintenance

This 12-credit graduate certificate program will be composed of four courses specialized on wind plant operation and inspection. Students in this Certificate program will learn to monitor and maintain the operation of a wind farm with the latest inspection and data analytic technologies to keep wind turbines running smoothly with minimum downtime. The program will look into the topic of interconnecting wind power project with the power grid and learn about the Regional Transmission Operator (RTO) process. They will study the behavior of the wind power system under conditions such as sudden changes in load or generation or short circuits on transmission lines and how to control and achieve resilience.

Who would be suited to take this program?

Students and professionals interested in a career in the offshore wind industry could enroll in this program to receive training needed for a competitive offshore wind workforce. According to the report “New York State and the Jobs of Offshore Wind Energy” published by the Workforce Development Institute, professional education beyond bachelor degree is required for many occupations in offshore wind; examples include engineering manager, chief engineer and operation manager. The report “U. S. Offshore Wind Workforce Assessment” published by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in October 2022, points out that offshore wind occupations like finance managers, engineers, researchers, and developers, safety officers, information technologists, permitting coordinators, etc., will need education that will be offered by universities. According to the U. S. Department of Energy’s *Wind Vision* report (<https://www.energy.gov/eere/wind/wind-vision>) and an article published in the journal *Wind Engineering* (“Graduate and undergraduate university programs in wind energy in the United States”, vol. 43, page 35-46, 2019), the United States may need more than 50,000 university-educated professionals with advanced degrees to support wind energy development by 2030.

What are the prerequisites?

Students with backgrounds in electrical engineering, physical sciences, or engineering technology are well matched to take this program to acquire project management knowledge to transition into the booming offshore wind industry.

What will I learn?

This Program will address and highlight the entire HVDC cable life cycle, system design parameters, materials, joints and terminations, installation on land and subsea, asset management of HVDC power cables in operation. It will provide technical analysis of interoperability and pros and cons of each possible technical solution to provide a well-rounded view of the issue. It will cover topics such as grid codes, power system balancing, and integration of fluctuating renewables into power grid. The students will learn the fundamentals of wind turbine generator dynamics and transient stability analysis, small and large disturbance stability. The topics will be explained with theoretical aspects as well as hand calculations so that the students can grasp the concepts more easily. We will also explore systemic principles of wind power system management, such as the role of smart grid, data-enabled machine learning, power electronics-control, and data-driven decision-making.

Why study offshore wind at NJIT?

This is the first graduate certificate program developed in New Jersey for offshore wind power management. NJIT is well connected with New Jersey State Government offices, offshore wind developers, transmission developers, and offshore supply chain companies in its efforts to prepare students for a career in the offshore wind industry. For the development of certificate programs targeting offshore wind workforce training, NJIT is in the process of forming an advisory board involving government, industry and academia. Besides, students can also take advantage of the offshore wind events that NJIT has been organizing, including a biannual 2-day offshore wind bootcamp training, an annual offshore wind technology conference, and an annual offshore wind career exhibition. Participants can interact with industry experts and network with project managers.

Potential employment:

Operation Specialties Managers

Plant and System Engineers

Operating Engineers

Stationary Engineers

<<Core Courses>>

ECE651 Wind Transmission and Grid Interconnection (newly proposed course)

ECE652 HVDC Design, Operation and Maintenance (newly proposed course)

ECE 656 Power System Dynamics (newly proposed course)

<<Elective Courses>>

ECE725 Independent Study (for doing a technical project jointly identified by NJIT and the offshore wind industry)

2 Wind Power System Operation & Maintenance

MGMT 635 Data Mining and Analysis or CS634 Data Mining