

Electronics AC/DC - UAS

Level: 3

Career Cluster: Advanced Manufacturing

Program: Engineering

Pathway(s): Engineering Applications UAS, Aerospace Engineering Technician, Engineering

Course Catalog Description

Introduces AC/DC electronics through circuit analysis, measurement, safety, and hands-on lab work with applications in engineering and drone/UAS systems. Students build, test, and troubleshoot circuits while examining components commonly used in drones such as motors, electronic speed controllers, batteries, sensors, and control systems, then apply engineering design to a final project.

Summary

This course provides students with a comprehensive study of AC/DC electronics through career exploration, laboratory safety, circuit analysis, hands-on construction, and engineering design with a clear connection to drone and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Students investigate aerospace engineering technician and drone-related career pathways and postsecondary opportunities while developing professionalism, ethical awareness, and an understanding of industry expectations, including FAA-informed operational responsibilities for safe flight. Through classroom and lab experiences, students learn to measure electrical quantities, explain atomic theory and material behavior, analyze direct current and alternating current circuits, and examine the function of common electronic components, magnetism, electromagnetism, motors, generators, sensors, batteries, and control systems that support drone performance. Students also build and test circuits using breadboards and standard test equipment, collect and interpret technical data, troubleshoot circuit faults, and document their work using schematics, lab reports, and technical communication practices. By the end of the course, students apply electronics concepts and engineering reasoning to design, construct, test, revise, and present a functional project that may model or support a drone/UAS subsystem while demonstrating both technical knowledge and problem-solving skills.

Notes

Compared with the previous course, this updated version provides a more structured and detailed progression of student learning while shifting the course emphasis toward engineering applications in drone and UAS systems. The revised course expands safety content to include drone equipment and lithium-based batteries, strengthens technical communication, troubleshooting, and engineering design expectations, and more clearly organizes AC/DC concepts into targeted learning sections with measurable outcomes. It also adds explicit leadership and work-based learning components and strengthens connections to career pathways, professionalism, and aerospace-related applications.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Career Exploration and Postsecondary Opportunities

Objective: *Students will analyze career pathways in engineering and drones by exploring industry roles, workplace expectations, required education, certifications, professional organizations, and postsecondary opportunities available in Colorado in order to make informed academic and career decisions.*

- 1) Identify employment opportunities in various fields with a focus in the area of engineering and drones
 - a. Recognize the work typically performed, tools and technology used, and nature of work environments
 - b. Identify potential certifications within the careers
 - c. Find membership organizations associated with the careers
 - d. Understand the necessary education associated within the careers
- 2) Define professionalism within the context of engineering and drones
 - a. Criticism and evaluation
 - b. Presentation
 - c. Assessment
- 3) Recognize laws, regulations, and ethics significant to the fields of engineering and drones
- 4) Identify postsecondary opportunities offered in the state of Colorado
 - a. Technical college, community college, 4-year institutions
 - b. Certificates, associates, bachelor, and advanced degree opportunities

2. Safety Tools and Laboratory Practices

Objective: *Students will apply safe work habits, proper tool use, and lab procedures to prevent hazards while working with electrical and electronic systems, including drone/UAS components and lithium-based batteries.*

- 5) Interpret classroom and lab safety rules related to electricity, tools, electronic components, and drone/UAS equipment.
- 6) Demonstrate appropriate use of personal protective equipment and safe workstation practices.
- 7) Use electrical tools and testing equipment according to standard operating procedures.
- 8) Recognize potential hazards such as shock, short circuits, heat, improper grounding, and damaged battery packs.
- 9) Explain basic first aid and emergency response procedures for electrical incidents and overheating or damaged lithium-based batteries.
- 10) Evaluate lab practices for safety, organization, responsible tool handling, and safe charging or storage of drone batteries.

3. Electrical Quantities and Measurement

Objective: *Students will develop an understanding of fundamental electrical quantities and measure them accurately using standard test equipment.*

- 11) Define voltage, current, resistance, and power using appropriate units and symbols.
- 12) Distinguish between current measurement, voltage measurement, and resistance

measurement.

- 13) Demonstrate proper use of a multimeter to collect electrical measurements.
- 14) Measure voltage, current, and resistance in simple circuits.
- 15) Describe the function and application of oscilloscopes in analyzing electronic signals.
- 16) Record measurements using correct notation, units, and technical vocabulary.

4. Atomic Theory Conductors and Circuit Fundamentals

Objective: *Students will explain how atomic structure and material properties influence electrical behavior in circuits and electronic systems.*

- 17) Describe atomic structure and the relationship between electrons, conductivity, and insulation.
- 18) Differentiate conductors, insulators, and semiconductors based on material properties.
- 19) Explain how electric charge and electron movement create current flow.
- 20) Classify common materials used in electronic systems based on their electrical properties.
- 21) Analyze how material selection impacts circuit performance and safety.

5. Direct Current DC Circuit Analysis

Objective: *Students will analyze direct current circuits by applying laws, formulas, and schematic conventions to predict and verify circuit behavior.*

- 22) Define direct current and identify common DC power sources and applications.
- 23) Interpret electronic schematics and symbols for switches, sources, resistors, fuses, meters, and ground.
- 24) Determine resistor values using color codes.
- 25) Apply Ohm's Law to calculate voltage, current, and resistance.
- 26) Apply the Power Law to calculate electrical power in DC circuits.
- 27) Differentiate series, parallel, and combination circuits.
- 28) Calculate current, voltage drops, resistance, and power in DC circuit configurations.
- 29) Analyze how circuit changes affect overall circuit performance.
- 30) Verify calculations through circuit construction and measurement.

6. Circuit Construction Breadboarding and Prototyping

Objective: *Students will construct and test functional circuit prototypes using breadboards, components, and engineering design practices.*

- 31) Identify the purpose and layout of a breadboard.
- 32) Assemble simple series, parallel, and combination circuits on a breadboard.
- 33) Select appropriate components based on circuit requirements.
- 34) Demonstrate proper wiring techniques for prototype circuits.
- 35) Test breadboarded circuits for continuity and expected operation.
- 36) Modify circuit designs based on observed results and test data.
- 37) Evaluate prototype quality for organization, functionality, and safety.

7. Electronic Components and Devices

Objective: Students will examine the function of common electronic components and predict how they influence circuit performance.

- 38) Identify the characteristics and purposes of resistors, potentiometers, capacitors, switches, protective devices, sensors, and electronic speed controllers.
- 39) Explain how component values affect current, voltage, and circuit behavior.
- 40) Compare fixed and variable components in practical applications, including drone control and stabilization systems.
- 41) Select components for specific functions in a circuit design.
- 42) Analyze how component failure or incorrect selection affects system operation.
- 43) Construct simple circuits using a variety of passive and control-related components.

8. Magnetism Electromagnetism Motors and Generators

Objective: Students will explain magnetic principles and analyze how electromagnetic systems are used to produce motion and electrical energy.

- 44) Describe the relationship between electricity and magnetism.
- 45) Explain electromagnetic induction and its role in electrical systems.
- 46) Identify the operating principles of motors and generators.
- 47) Compare electrical energy conversion in motors and generators.
- 48) Analyze how magnetic fields support device operation in engineering systems, including drone propulsion and stabilization.
- 49) Demonstrate understanding of electromagnetism through circuit activities or lab investigations connected to motors, coils, or drone-related applications.

9. Alternating Current AC Fundamentals

Objective: Students will interpret the characteristics of alternating current and analyze how AC differs from DC in electronic and engineering systems.

- 50) Define alternating current and describe common AC applications.
- 51) Compare AC and DC in terms of direction of flow, sources, and uses.
- 52) Identify waveform characteristics including amplitude, frequency, and period.
- 53) Interpret graphical representations of AC waveforms.
- 54) Measure selected AC circuit values using proper test equipment.
- 55) Explain why AC power is widely used in electrical systems and equipment.

10. Reactive Components and AC Circuit Behavior

Objective: Students will analyze the behavior of capacitive and inductive elements in alternating current circuits and interpret their effects on circuit operation.

- 56) Describe the behavior of capacitors and inductors in AC circuits.
- 57) Explain capacitive reactance and inductive reactance.
- 58) Compare resistance and impedance in circuit analysis.
- 59) Analyze how frequency affects component behavior in AC circuits.

- 60) Interpret the role of phase relationships in AC circuit performance.
- 61) Evaluate AC circuit behavior using observations, data, and calculations.

11. Test Equipment Data Collection and Technical Analysis

Objective: *Students will use electronic test equipment to collect, interpret, and communicate circuit data accurately.*

- 62) Operate multimeters and oscilloscopes safely and effectively.
- 63) Measure circuit performance using appropriate tools and procedures.
- 64) Collect and organize test data in tables, charts, or lab notes.
- 65) Interpret measured data to determine whether a circuit is functioning properly.
- 66) Compare expected and actual results from a circuit investigation, including tests of motors, controllers, sensors, or battery output used in drone systems.
- 67) Communicate findings using appropriate technical language and evidence.

12. Troubleshooting and Problem Solving in Electronic Systems

Objective: *Students will diagnose faults in electrical and electronic circuits by using systematic troubleshooting strategies and engineering reasoning.*

- 68) Identify common circuit problems such as open circuits, shorts, poor connections, incorrect component placement, and intermittent control issues.
- 69) Use a step-by-step troubleshooting process to isolate faults.
- 70) Analyze measurement data to determine possible root causes.
- 71) Test circuit sections to verify operation and locate errors.
- 72) Recommend corrective actions based on evidence from observations and measurements, including issues affecting drone propulsion, control, or power systems.
- 73) Evaluate whether repairs or modifications resolved the original problem.

13. Circuit Design Documentation and Technical Communication

Objective: *Students will document circuit designs, procedures, and results in order to communicate technical information clearly and professionally.*

- 74) Interpret and draw basic electronic schematics using standard symbols.
- 75) Label circuit diagrams accurately and clearly.
- 76) Document procedures, measurements, and observations in engineering notebooks or lab reports.
- 77) Summarize circuit function and testing results in written form.
- 78) Present technical information using appropriate vocabulary, visuals, and evidence.
- 79) Evaluate technical documentation for clarity, completeness, and accuracy.

14. Engineering Design Application and Final Project

Objective: *Students will apply AC/DC electronics concepts to design, construct, test, and present a functional engineering project with relevance to electronics, drones, or UAS subsystems.*

- 80) Define a project goal or engineering problem related to electronics, drone systems, or UAS support technologies.

- 81) Design a circuit solution that meets stated criteria and constraints.
- 82) Construct a functional prototype using appropriate components and tools.
- 83) Test the project for performance, reliability, and safety.
- 84) Revise the design based on troubleshooting and data analysis.
- 85) Present the final design, process, and results to an audience.
- 86) Reflect on technical growth, problem solving, and engineering decision making in relation to real-world electronics and drone/UAS applications.

15. Leadership

Objective: *Students will demonstrate leadership skills by communicating effectively, collaborating with others, showing initiative, and applying ethical and professional behaviors in classroom, laboratory, and project settings.*

- 87) Demonstrate effective communication, teamwork, and active participation during class, lab, and project activities.
- 88) Apply problem-solving and decision-making strategies when working through technical challenges.
- 89) Exhibit responsibility, accountability, and dependability in completing assigned tasks and meeting deadlines.
- 90) Practice ethical behavior, respect for others, and professionalism in academic and workplace simulations.
- 91) Reflect on personal strengths, areas for growth, and leadership development goals.

16. Work-Based Learning

Objective: *Students will connect classroom learning to workplace expectations through career exploration, industry engagement, and authentic experiences that develop employability and technical skills.*

- 92) Describe the purpose and value of work-based learning experiences such as job shadows, internships, mentorships, industry projects, and guest speakers.
- 93) Demonstrate employability skills including punctuality, communication, collaboration, adaptability, and professional conduct.
- 94) Apply technical knowledge and classroom skills in authentic workplace tasks.
- 95) Interpret feedback from instructors, peers, or industry partners to improve performance and workplace readiness.
- 96) Reflect on work-based learning experiences to evaluate career interests, workplace expectations, and future goals.

17. Career and Technical Student Organizations

Objective: *Using the CTSO Resource Document, chapter activities will provide some of the best opportunities CTSO members will have to learn by doing. A successful program of work creates a positive learning atmosphere in the classroom. CTSO members learn how to accept responsibility, work as a team, manage a budget, and handle success and failure. Per the CTE Admin Handbook, CTSOs are embedded into curriculum.*

Professional Development

Prepare each member for entry into the workforce and provide a foundation for success in a career. Becoming a professional does not stop with acquiring a skill, but involves an increased awareness of the meaning of good citizenship and the importance of labor and management in the world of work.

Community Service

Promote and improve goodwill and understanding among all segments of the community through services donated by CTSO chapters, and to instill in its members a lifetime commitment to community service.

Business and Industry Connections

Increase awareness of quality job practices and attitudes, and increase the opportunities for employer engagement and eventual employment.

Financial Leadership

Plan and participate in activities to allow all members to carry out the chapter's projects. Educate members on their own personal finance for current and future success.

Public Relations

Make the general public aware of the good work that students in career and technical education are doing to better themselves and their community, state, nation, and world.

Social Activities

To increase cooperation in the school and community through activities that allow CTSO members to get to know each other in something other than a business or classroom setting.

Academic Standards Alignment

Colorado CTE courses are required to integrate academic and essential skills into course content. The following academic standards have been identified as aligned to this course and should be integrated throughout instruction.

[CO CTE Academic Standards Resources](#) (Rubrics, integration strategies, etc)
[CDE Colorado Academic Standards Online](#) (Online standards lookup tool)

Note: Mathematics and Science standards will be added in the future. Visit the [Colorado Academic Standards](#) page for the most current version.

Reading, Writing and Communicating Crosswalk

Course: Electronics AC/DC

Colorado Academic Standards – Reading, Writing, and Communicating

Standard	Prepared Graduate Competency	Description	Course Evidence / Alignment
Standard 1: Oral Expression and Listening	Prepared Graduate 1 – Collaboration	Collaborate effectively as group members or leaders.	Students work in lab teams to build, test, and troubleshoot circuits; communicate findings and procedures with peers; and practice shared responsibility and respectful collaboration while completing electronics and drone/UAS-related tasks.
Standard 1: Oral Expression and Listening	Prepared Graduate 2 – Oral Presentations	Deliver effective oral presentations for varied audiences and purposes.	Students explain circuit behavior and lab results, describe troubleshooting steps and safety considerations, and communicate technical information clearly to instructors and classmates, including findings

			related to drone components or subsystems.
Standard 2: Reading for All Purposes	Prepared Graduate 4 – Informational Texts	Read a wide range of informational texts.	Students read and interpret circuit diagrams and schematics, datasheets, manuals, safety documentation, and technical explanations of DC and AC principles, including materials related to motors, sensors, batteries, and drone/UAS electronics.
Standard 2: Reading for All Purposes	Prepared Graduate 5 – Language in Context	Understand how language functions in different contexts.	Students use discipline-specific electrical terminology and interpret symbolic and technical language used in electronics documentation.
Standard 3: Writing and Composition	Prepared Graduate 7 – Informational Writing	Craft informational/explanatory texts using techniques specific to the genre.	Students produce lab reports, written explanations of circuit function, and documentation of measurements, procedures, and outcomes, including analysis of electronics used in drone or UAS-related systems.
Standard 3: Writing and Composition	Prepared Graduate 9 – Writing Process	Demonstrate mastery of their own writing process.	The course requires drafting, revising, and finalizing lab documentation and producing clear, accurate, technically

			correct written work.
Standard 4: Research Inquiry and Design	Prepared Graduate 10 – Research and Ethics	Gather information from a variety of sources; analyze and evaluate its quality and relevance.	Students research electrical components, circuit behavior, and drone/UAS subsystems, analyze measurement data, and use information ethically to support conclusions and troubleshooting decisions.

Free Resource Links

1. Career Exploration and Postsecondary Opportunities

- FAA Become a Certificated Remote Pilot (Part 107 certification overview drone careers)
https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/become_a_drone_pilot
- FAA Recreational Flyers and Community-Based Organizations (TRUST safe drone operations)
https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_flyers
- O NET Online (drone pilot and electronics engineering careers job descriptions skills)
<https://www.onetonline.org/>
- CareerOneStop (career planning certifications technical training drones engineering)
<https://www.careeronestop.org/>

2. Safety Tools and Laboratory Practices

- FAA Recreational Flyers and Community-Based Organizations (safe flight rules visual line of sight airspace basics)
https://www.faa.gov/uas/recreational_flyers
- United Educators Safely Handle Rechargeable Lithium-Ion Batteries (charging storage emergency response)
<https://www.ue.org/risk-management/premises-safety/handle-rechargeable-lithium-batteries/>
- NSTA Lithium-Based Power Supplies Safety Issues and Protocols Revisited (school lab battery safety)
<https://www.nsta.org/blog/lithium-based-power-supplies-safety-issues-and-protocols-revisited>
- OSHA (workplace safety standards electrical)
<https://www.osha.gov/>

3. Electrical Quantities and Measurement

- Khan Academy Electrical Engineering (voltage current resistance basics)
<https://www.khanacademy.org/science/electrical-engineering>
- SparkFun Learn (measurement circuits electronics fundamentals)
<https://learn.sparkfun.com/>
- Electronics Tutorials (measurement voltage current resistance)
<https://www.electronics-tutorials.ws/>
- All About Circuits (electrical measurements theory applications)
<https://www.allaboutcircuits.com/>

4. Atomic Theory Conductors and Circuit Fundamentals

- CK 12 Physics (atomic structure conductivity basics)
<https://www.ck12.org/physics/>
- HyperPhysics Electricity (atomic theory electricity fundamentals)
<http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/>
- Physics Classroom Electricity (conductors insulators circuits basics)
<https://www.physicsclassroom.com/>

- BBC Bitesize Electricity (atomic model electrical behavior)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

5. Direct Current DC Circuit Analysis

- All About Circuits DC (dc circuits ohms law analysis)
<https://www.allaboutcircuits.com/>
- Electronics Tutorials DC (dc circuits fundamentals examples)
<https://www.electronics-tutorials.ws/dccircuits/>
- Khan Academy Circuits (dc analysis ohms law practice)
<https://www.khanacademy.org/science/electrical-engineering>
- Circuit Lab (circuit simulation analysis practice)
<https://www.circuitlab.com/>

6. Circuit Construction Breadboarding and Prototyping

- SparkFun Breadboard Guide (breadboard prototyping wiring)
<https://learn.sparkfun.com/tutorials/how-to-use-a-breadboard>
- Adafruit Learn (electronics prototyping projects circuits)
<https://learn.adafruit.com/>
- Digi Key Electronics Tutorials (breadboarding prototyping circuits)
<https://www.digikey.com/en/resources>
- Tinkercad Circuits (virtual circuit building simulation)
<https://www.tinkercad.com/circuits>

7. Electronic Components and Devices

- Drone Launch Academy Anatomy of a Drone (motors ESCs sensors flight controller basics)
<https://dronelaunchacademy.com/resources/anatomy-of-a-drone/>
- All About Circuits Components (electronic components applications)
<https://www.allaboutcircuits.com/>
- ThinkRobotics Motor Controllers and Brushless ESCs (motor control brushless esc basics)
<https://thinkrobotics.com/blogs/learn/understanding-motor-controllers-from-basics-to-brushless-escs>
- SparkFun Components Guide (components electronics basics usage)
<https://learn.sparkfun.com/>

8. Magnetism Electromagnetism Motors and Generators

- Khan Academy Magnetism (magnetism electromagnetism basics)
<https://www.khanacademy.org/science/physics/magnetic-forces-and-magnetic-fields>
- HyperPhysics Magnetism (electromagnetic principles explanations)
<http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/>
- Learn Engineering YouTube (motors generators explanation animation)
<https://www.youtube.com/@LearnEngineering>
- National Geographic Electricity (magnetism real world applications)
<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/>

9. Alternating Current AC Fundamentals

- Electronics Tutorials AC (ac circuits waveform basics)
<https://www.electronics-tutorials.ws/accircuits/>
- Khan Academy AC Circuits (alternating current concepts)
<https://www.khanacademy.org/science/electrical-engineering>
- All About Circuits AC (ac fundamentals waveforms frequency)
<https://www.allaboutcircuits.com/>
- Electrical4U AC (ac theory frequency concepts)
<https://www.electrical4u.com/>

10. Reactive Components and AC Circuit Behavior

- Electronics Tutorials Reactance (capacitive inductive reactance)
<https://www.electronics-tutorials.ws/accircuits/reactance.html>
- All About Circuits AC Analysis (impedance phase relationships)
<https://www.allaboutcircuits.com/>
- Khan Academy Waves and Circuits (frequency and phase concepts)
<https://www.khanacademy.org/science/electrical-engineering>
- Electrical4U Reactance (inductors capacitors ac behavior)
<https://www.electrical4u.com/>

11. Test Equipment Data Collection and Technical Analysis

- Fluke Education (electrical testing measurement tools)
<https://www.fluke.com/en-us/learn>
- Tektronix Education (oscilloscope measurement analysis)
<https://www.tek.com/en/education>
- Keysight Resources (test equipment data analysis tools)
<https://www.keysight.com/us/en/learn.html>
- NI LabVIEW Resources (data acquisition analysis systems)
<https://www.ni.com/en-us/shop/labview.html>

12. Troubleshooting and Problem Solving in Electronic Systems

- iFixit (diagnostics troubleshooting methodology)
<https://www.ifixit.com/>
- Electronics Tutorials Troubleshooting (circuit fault finding basics)
<https://www.electronics-tutorials.ws/>
- Fluke Troubleshooting Guide (electrical system diagnostics)
<https://www.fluke.com/en-us/learn>
- All About Circuits Troubleshooting (circuit diagnostics analysis)
<https://www.allaboutcircuits.com/>

13. Circuit Design Documentation and Technical Communication

- Purdue OWL Technical Writing (technical communication documentation)
<https://owl.purdue.edu/>

- Lucidchart (diagram schematics documentation tools)
<https://www.lucidchart.com/>
- Autodesk Design Academy (technical drawing cad documentation)
<https://academy.autodesk.com/>
- IEEE Resources (technical documentation standards engineering)
<https://www.ieee.org/>

14. Engineering Design Application and Final Project

- NASA STEM (engineering design challenges aerospace drone-related exploration)
<https://www.nasa.gov/stem>
- ThinkRobotics Building Your First Drone (drone components system integration project ideas)
<https://thinkrobotics.com/blogs/tutorials/the-complete-guide-to-building-your-first-drone-essential-components-explained>
- Instructables (engineering design projects prototyping ideas)
<https://www.instructables.com/>
- Tinkercad Circuits (virtual circuit building simulation for subsystem prototyping)
<https://www.tinkercad.com/circuits>

15. Leadership

- Overcoming Obstacles Free Life Skills Curriculum (communication decision making goal setting professionalism)
<https://www.overcomingobstacles.org/>
- U.S. Department of Labor Teamwork (teamwork collaboration workplace success communication)
<https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/odep/topics/youth/softskills/teamwork.pdf>
- OER Commons Know Your CTSO (leadership teamwork communication CTSO engagement)
<https://oercommons.org/courseware/lesson/105738/overview>
- Youth.gov Career Exploration and Skill Development (mentoring leadership employability skills)
<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/youth-employment/career-exploration-and-skill-development>

16. Work-Based Learning

- Advance CTE Work-Based Learning Resources (experiential learning internships apprenticeships career pathways)
<https://careertech.org/resource-center/topics/work-based-learning/>
- Colorado Work Based Learning Resources (toolkits agreements permission forms quality expectations)
<https://cowbl.org/resources/>
- U.S. Department of Labor Career Preparation and Work-Based Learning Experiences (career preparation employability self-advocacy)
<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/program-areas/individuals/youth/career-preparation>



Technology Student Association – National Competitive Events

Technology Problem Solving

Objective: *Students will work as a team to solve an on-site TSA technology challenge by designing, constructing, testing, and evaluating a solution using limited materials, tools, and time.*

- Analyze an on-site TSA problem and identify the required task, constraints, materials, and scoring criteria.
- Collaborate with a partner to plan and construct a working solution within the competition time limit.
- Use approved materials, tools, and measuring devices safely and effectively during the build process.
- Apply engineering and technology concepts to improve the performance of the solution.
- Test the solution using the required objective measure, such as strength, distance, time, accuracy, or completion of a task.
- Revise the solution based on observed performance and available time.
- Evaluate the final product using TSA criteria for problem solving, construction quality, teamwork, and measurable performance.

Resources

- Technology Student Association – Technology Problem Solving competition guidelines
<https://tsaweb.org/competitions-programs/tsa/themes-problems>
- TeachEngineering – Hands-on engineering design challenges
<https://www.teachengineering.org/>
- Science Buddies – Engineering Design Process
<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/engineering-design-process/engineering-design-process-steps>
- OSHA – Young Worker Safety and Health
<https://www.osha.gov/young-workers>



Technology Student Association – National Competitive Events

Senior Solar Sprint

Objective: *Students will design, construct, test, document, and race a solar-powered model vehicle that meets TSA Senior Solar Sprint competition requirements.*

- Research solar vehicle design, electrical power, energy transfer, motors, materials, and TSA Senior Solar Sprint requirements.
- Design a solar-powered model car that meets required dimensional, material, and construction specifications.
- Construct a model vehicle that demonstrates creativity, originality, quality construction, and engineering design.
- Create a display and decorated shoebox that professionally communicate the vehicle's design concept.
- Test and refine the vehicle to improve alignment, reliability, energy efficiency, and race performance.
- Participate in inspection, interview, time trials, and final race procedures according to TSA competition rules.
- Evaluate the final vehicle using TSA criteria for model design, creativity, construction quality, display, interview, and race performance.

Resources

- Technology Student Association – Senior Solar Sprint competition guidelines
<https://tsaweb.org/competitions-programs/tsa/themes-problems>
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory – Solar energy basics
<https://www.nrel.gov/research/re-solar.html>
- U.S. Department of Energy – Solar Energy Technologies Office
<https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/solar-energy-technologies-office>
- Autodesk Fusion – CAD/CAM tools for vehicle design and prototyping
<https://www.autodesk.com/products/fusion-360/education>



Technology Student Association – National Competitive Events

System Control Technology

Objective: *Students will design, construct, program, troubleshoot, document, and demonstrate a working control-system solution that responds to a TSA-provided problem.*

- Interpret the TSA-provided control-system problem and identify the required functions, constraints, and performance goals.
- Design a working system that uses inputs, outputs, controls, sensors, motors, circuits, or programmable components.
- Construct and test the system using approved materials, tools, electronics, and safety procedures.
- Troubleshoot electrical, mechanical, sensor, programming, or reliability issues to improve system performance.
- Maintain an inventor's log documenting design decisions, testing, revisions, and final system operation.
- Demonstrate the completed system for judges and explain how the design meets the problem criteria.
- Evaluate the system using TSA criteria for functionality, design quality, problem interpretation, documentation, and communication.

Resources

- Technology Student Association – System Control Technology competition guidelines
<https://tsaweb.org/competitions-programs/tsa/themes-problems>
- Arduino Education – Electronics and control systems
<https://www.arduino.cc/education>
- Tinkercad Circuits – Circuit simulation and prototyping
<https://www.tinkercad.com/circuits>
- PhET Interactive Simulations – Circuit Construction Kit
<https://phet.colorado.edu/>