The document is a Career Track Guide for the Career of Computerized Drafting and Engineering Design & Configuration Management. It is part of the School of Technology at Johnson & Wales University, Providence, RI. The version is 3.0a, Copyright 2005. It was last updated on September 1, 2005.
Computerized Drafting
Engineering Design & Configuration Management

What career options will your degree in Computerized Drafting and/or Engineering Design and Configuration Management afford you? We’ve assembled a series of career path overviews, job titles, and job descriptions to help you explore the possibilities and focus on a career track.

Job descriptions were compiled from actual online job postings and from Johnson & Wales’ DACUM (Developing a Curriculum) process (when we ask practicing professionals to detail the duties, tasks, skills and required work behaviors associated with their positions). Now is the time to collect all the information you can and make informed decisions about your career path. The information assembled here is a great place to start.
Career Paths in Computerized Drafting (CAD) 
And Engineering Design & Configuration Management

The following Career Path and supporting titles/descriptions are provided in this Career Track Guide.

**Engineering Support**
- CAD Drafter/Operator
- Production Support Specialist
- Configuration Management Specialist
- Configuration Engineer
- Product Support Engineer
ENGINEERING SUPPORT

**CAD Drafter/Operator**
A CAD drafter is responsible for routine drafting projects, such as the preparation of various structures and equipment systems derived from layouts and sketches.

A CAD drafter/operator:
• Using computer aided design (CAD), transforms initial rough product designs into working documents.
• Reviews engineering drawings and designs to ensure adherence to established specifications and standards.
• Follows established technical specifications to prepare drawings and assists in simple design drafting.
• Has knowledge of commonly used concepts, practices, and procedures within a particular field.
• Relies on instructions and pre-established guidelines to perform the functions of the job, working under the supervision of the design engineer.

Drafting has many specialties, each with its own set of knowledge and skills and each applying to different fields. These specialties include: Architecture, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Mechanical Engineering.

**Production Support Specialist**
A production support specialist is responsible for the execution of manufacturing and/or quality plans of various components and/or products. They work with engineering staff to determine planning, tooling and other manufacturing requirements.

Other responsibilities of a production support specialist include:
• Maintaining program delivery requirements.
• Providing technical support to team members working on the design, manufacturing and testing of products and/or components.

**Configuration Management Specialist**
A configuration management specialist provides configuration management support to ensure that all products are tracked to a baseline design configuration and that all changes are controlled and accounted for in accordance with contractual requirements and standard policies and procedures.

A configuration management specialist will:
• Prepare and enter data for engineering change orders.
• Participate in initial design reviews.
• Prepare and maintain configuration accounting reports, as required.
ENGINEERING SUPPORT CONTINUED

Configuration Engineer
A configuration engineer is responsible for designing, documenting and verifying the continuous improvement of assigned processes. He/She assures application of the company’s approved total quality management techniques throughout assigned areas.

A configuration engineer:
- Establishes schedules, priorities, and other work flow related activities for assigned tasks.
- Defines the scope of tasks to be performed by selected engineering disciplines.
- Ensures accurate execution of engineering design intent and the best practice execution in the production process.
- Develops and implements processes, procedures and plans.
- Prepares periodic reports on program activities to management.
- Controls the expenditure of funds and acts as cost account manager on projects.

Product Support Engineer
A product support engineer provides support to both customers and field engineers by performing troubleshooting operations and acting as the interface between customers and engineering. This problem resolution ensures that customers are satisfied and field engineers can efficiently perform their duties.

Other responsibilities of a product support engineer include:
- Providing technical updates to new products for customers.
- Tracking issues affecting customer service.
- Performing troubleshooting and resolution activities for customers and field engineers.
- Preparing and analyzing technical drawings, specifications and layouts to ensure installation and operation of equipment or products meet standards.
- Providing information on product usage, monitoring product performance, and ensuring high levels of product repair and maintenance.