



Pennsylvania Gunsmith School® Facts about PGS 2025-2026

Welcome to our Student Consumer Information page; we hope you find it helpful as you decide on a career and corresponding education. Please also schedule a visit to learn more about our school.

This information is presented in compliance with Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) regulations.

Master Gunsmithing Program®

O*Net Information (U.S. Dept. of Labor site)
www.onetonline.org - Enter *Gunsmith* in the upper right "Occupation Quick Search" box.

*There is no specific Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) for Gunsmith at O*Net; the occupations are listed in rank order below as to relevance of the title, description, tasks and work activities associated with the keyword **Gunsmith**:*

SOC 49-9099.00: Installation, Maintenance and Repair Workers, All Other

SOC 51-4081: Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic

SOC 51-4199: Metal Workers and Plastic Workers, All Other

CIP Code (Classification of Instruction Programs; assigned by U.S. Dept. of Education): 47.0402

OPEID Code (Dept. of Education): 02330600 (postsecondary education identification code)

Award:

Diploma in the Master Gunsmithing Program® with credentials as a Sporting Arms Ordnance Technician™

Program Length:

2496 clock hours of instruction (16 months total length; four instructional semesters).

Costs:

For information concerning tuition, estimated costs for books, course materials, equipment (tools), and supplies and estimated costs for living expenses see <https://pagunsmith.edu/PGS> web page Other Consumer Disclosure/Mandatory Fees and School Costs

For students enrolling during the time period

4/1/2021– 3/31/2022:

Graduation Rate: 82.5% (Of 40 students who started, 33 completed the program.)

On-Time Completion Rate: 13 of 33 or 39% graduated on-time. 20 of 33 or 61% needed a Leave of Absence (LOA). A high percentage of those needing an LOA had COVID-19 or Covid-19 like symptoms and extended their original expected graduation date.

Placement Rate: 90.5% (30 of 33 graduates available for placement were verified as employed in the field or a related field; updated to reflect additional documentation).

Title IV Median Loan Debt: 15 of the 33 students graduating had federal student loan debt, with the median being \$12,000 (about \$120 per month for 120 payments; assumes student is paying the interest on unsubsidized loans while enrolled).

Private Education Median Loan Debt: Of the 15 with federal student loan debt, 1 also had private loan debt.

Related Occupations: This program prepares students for employment as a Gunsmith, and occupations such as machinist, welder, metal worker, wood worker and other related fields.

Calculation Information: Included in the calculation of the placement rate are all students who started the program in the time period stated above and is based on information reported to PGS by students or their employers. The Placement Director collects appropriate documentation to support reported rates; graduation and placement rates are reported to the PA Dept. of Education and ACCSC (Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges).

The following graduates are excluded from the placement calculation: graduates who continue on with education in an accredited institution of higher education (postsecondary) on at least a half-time basis; and graduates who fall into one of these categories: death, incarceration, active military deployment, onset of a medical condition that prevents employment, or international students who returned to their country of origin.

Types of Positions: Graduates found positions as Gunsmiths (self-employed or gunshop employee) or related fields such as firearms manufacturing or machining. Employment confirmation was compiled between student graduation date and date report was prepared; some students secured employment before graduation. The Placement Director makes every effort to document employment as soon as possible.

When evaluating Gunsmithing Programs, be sure to compare --

. Actual bench time working on firearms (*PGS: 2496 total clock hours; intense hands-on training at work benches most of the time.*)

. Graduation credential; if an Associate Degree, 25% of content could consist of general academic courses such as English and electives. (*PGS: does not offer general academic courses.*)

. Costs, including the number of clock hours of actual Gunsmithing instruction, as well as tuition charges, to obtain an apples-to-apples comparison. (*PGS: \$35,820 ÷ 2496 clock hours = \$14.35/hour*)

. Tool policies: do students leave with tools and supplies to begin their career, as well as custom firearms to share with customers and/or employers? (*PGS: Students leave with all the tools and supplies they purchased, as well as an array of sample custom firearms to begin their career.*)

. Instructional philosophy: is the curriculum reviewed and modified to meet the needs of employers? (*PGS: A Program Advisory Committee of employers and private gunsmiths meets twice yearly to assure our proprietary curriculum meets and exceeds the demands of employers.*)

Questions and Answers about PGS

What are the Admissions requirements?

A high school diploma or GED; students must be able to qualify for a FFL (Federal Firearms License), although procurement of this license is part of the post-graduate employment or entrepreneurial process.

Minimum age is 18, or 17 with parent/guardian approval.

Those who love fine firearms and appreciate quality hand and machine work should apply. Previous experience is not necessary, only the desire to become a skilled craftsman.

What is the class schedule?

Monday through Friday, 8 am – 4:30 pm. Students are enrolled the first weekday of each month (except July and December).

Is housing available?

Many apartment buildings are within a short drive or walk from PGS. Avalon is a small community with shopping, restaurants, churches and schools, about five miles from downtown Pittsburgh.

What are the faculty qualifications?

Instructors must have at least three years of practical experience and are trained to teach Gunsmithing. They enjoy imparting knowledge to students, and many are avid hunters and shooters

Can I visit PGS through a Virtual Tour?

PGS recommends virtual tours first using Zoom (or other apps), for your convenience. Hosted by our Director of Instruction, it is in many ways superior to on-site tours because of the access to areas off limits to visitors on-site and depth of technical information conveyed.

Can I also visit PGS in person?

PGS encourages on-site visits to meet with staff, faculty and students, tour the shop, and answer questions about a career in Gunsmithing. We prefer that virtual visits be done first, for your convenience, with exceptions if internet access unavailable. Please call to schedule yours once the virtual visit is completed.

Do you accept State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) students?

State aid is available in varying amounts to qualified students. PGS has successfully trained many VR students. Contact your local Vocational Rehabilitation Office.

What about veterans education benefits?

PGS is approved for most VA programs, including Post 9/11. Visit <https://www.va.gov> for more information.

Do you enroll students from other countries?

Yes, from many different countries. Contact us and also consult <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov> for details on how to begin the process.

What are the careers in Gunsmithing?

With a thriving firearms industry, the demand for quality Gunsmithing services is steadily increasing. Existing shops and some retailers are hiring in-house staff.

Private industry positions in manufacturing and related careers as a machinist, woodworker, metal refinisher or model builder provide additional career avenues.

Many students choose to open their own gunshop upon graduation. While PGS does not guarantee placement, our staff will partner with students to help them land that first critical job.

Why PGS Compared to Other Schools?

- . 2496 clock hours of GUNSMITHING career training by experienced staff on-site.
- . Students learn in a shop setting with equipment used in a typical gunshop.
- . Students make useful Gunsmithing tools while learning critical skills.
- . Students purchase essential, quality tools and supplies carefully chosen by instructional staff; used on-the-job.
- . Students leave prepared to make a contribution to the industry right away