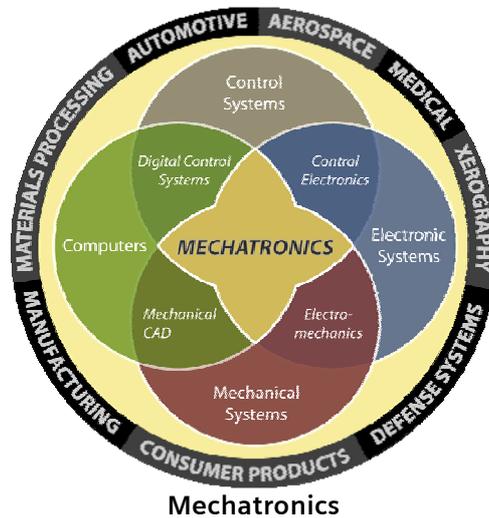


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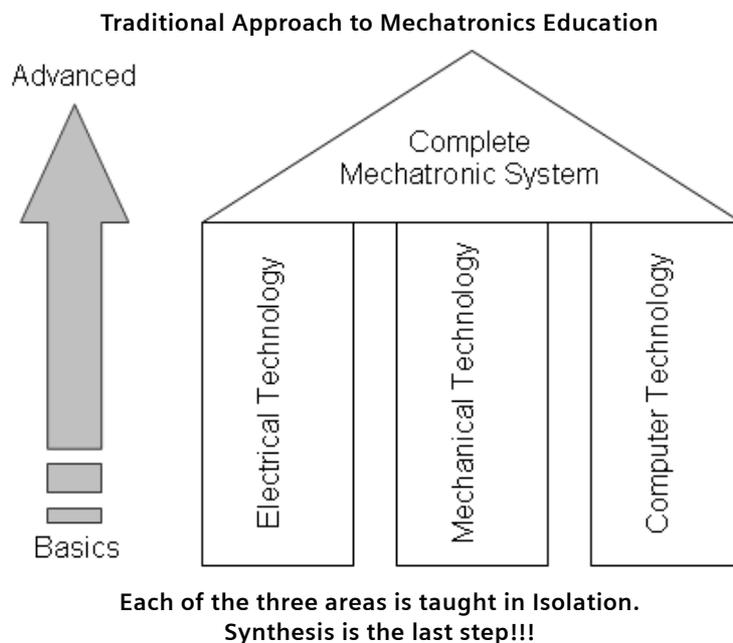
System Approach

Underlying the curriculum for all the 3 Levels of the Certification Program is the System Approach, which has been used with high effectiveness for the training of Siemens own co-workers in Germany.



Teaching Approach

Mechatronics is not only the marriage of electrical, mechanical and computer technologies; it is also a philosophy for looking at the system. Under traditional methods of teaching mechatronics, students learn about each of these fields separately from one another. Sometimes, there is a course or two at the end of the training which tries to pull all of these topics together.



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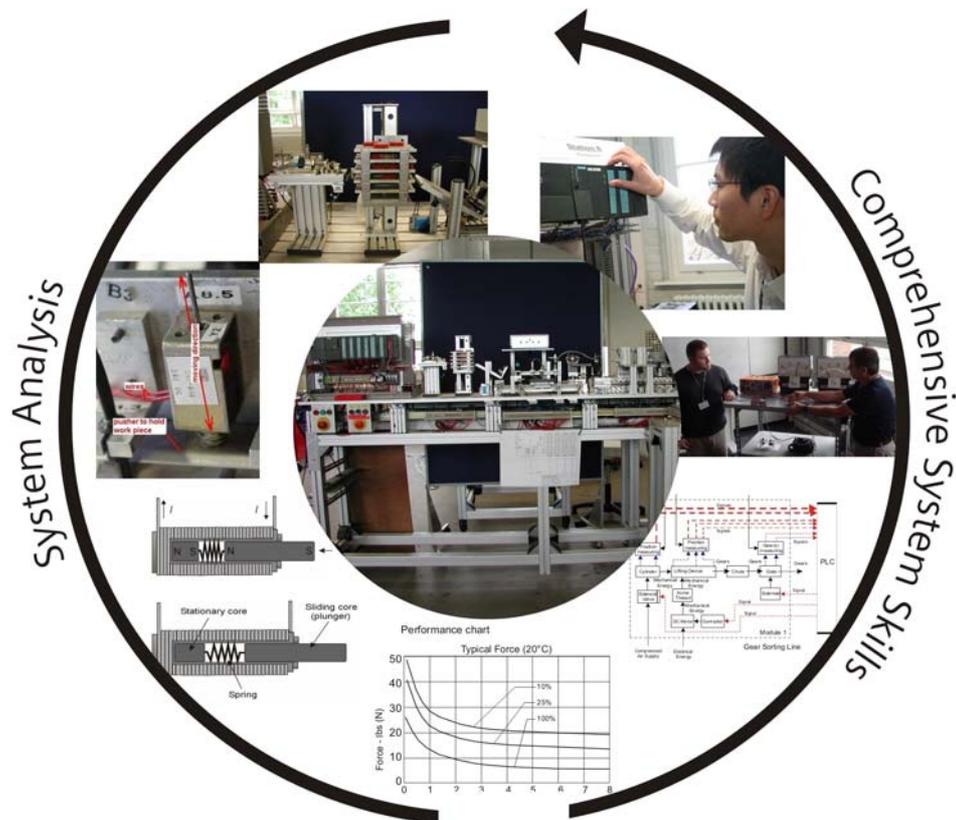
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System Approach

Because of the isolation of these fields, there is little appreciation or understanding of the inter-relationships. Even a final capstone course which attempts to tie the three fields of technology together often cannot convey fully the complexity of mechatronic systems.

Under the System Approach, students learn about the complexities of the system in a holistic fashion. This means that from the very first day, they are confronted with a complete complex system and learn about the various parts of the system by examining their roles in the system, always keeping the "big picture" in view.

Starting at the macro level, students first see the full system and learn about its function. From there they go into one of the system modules, examining the components contained within the module and their inter-relationships with one another.



System Approach: System as focal point – Closed Loop Learning

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At the component or device level, students learn about the physical properties of each component in the system, and, coupled with their knowledge of the flow of energy and information within the system, they will learn to carry the measurements required to pinpoint where malfunctions are occurring. They can determine whether a component is defective, whether the energy or information flow is incorrect, or if the hardware of the control system is defective – in other words moving from the micro-level back up to the macro-level in the troubleshooting process.

As a result, Siemens Certified Mechatronic Systems Assistants learn how to work their way into a new system, and by means of the troubleshooting strategies which they learn, they are able to transfer their knowledge and expertise easily to another system.

This makes for an employee who is flexible, autonomous and professional in his or her dealings with such complex system.

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