

Frequently Asked Questions about Apprenticeship

Do the terms Journeyman and a Journeyworker have the same meaning?

No, the terms Journeyman and Journeyworker are not the same:

A Journeyman is certified through the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). The journeyman is someone who has completed the required number of on-the-job training hours under the supervision of a master sign electrician and has passed the journeyman examination with TDLR.

A Journeyworker, the term used in the Apprenticeship Program, is a worker who has attained a level of skill, abilities and competencies recognized within the sign industry as having mastered the skills and competencies required. (The term may also refer to a mentor, technician, specialist or other skilled worker who has documented sufficient skills and knowledge of an occupation, either through formal apprenticeship or through practical on-the-job experience and formal training.) Every apprenticeship instructor must meet the State Department of Education's requirements for a vocational-technical instructor in the State of registration, or be a subject matter expert, which is an individual, such as a journeyworker, who is recognized within an industry as having expertise in a specific occupation; and have training in teaching techniques and adult learning styles.

Is our Journeyworker required to take a Methods of Instruction class in order to provide proof of training in teaching techniques and adult learning styles?

Yes, the Journeyworker is required to complete and provide documentation of training for a Methods of Instruction class. This training can be accomplished by either classroom or online training.

Can my apprentice get credit for past work experience?

Yes, the apprentice will document past work experience and submit it to the sponsor (company). The sponsor will decide how much credit will be given and indicate that amount of credit on the apprentice's training record and provide it to the DOL. The apprentice will receive a wage commensurate to the step of training to which the apprentice is advanced.

If college classes are completed during work hours can it count toward their on-the-job training hours?

Yes, the sponsor can determine how the training is administered to the apprentice. DOL will not object as long as the objectives of the training are met.

What happens if we are unable to find a college class in our area that is listed on our training schedule?

DOL wants to ensure that the objectives of the training schedule are met. Therefore if the training included in the college class can be met by other means of training (i.e. online class) it is acceptable to the DOL as long as the objectives of the training are documented.

What will the DOL be looking for during our end-of-year visit?

The DOL representative will contact the sponsor approximately 30 days prior to a visit to schedule a date and time that is convenient for the sponsor. The DOL will review the administration of the apprenticeship program, the documentation of on-the-job training and related instruction as well as cancellation rates of apprentices. Typically the end-of-year visit lasts from ½ day to 1 day. Sponsors are required to keep all apprenticeship related records for 5 years.

Can our company be ticketed or fined by DOL during the end of the first year inspection?

No, tickets or fines will never be issued by the DOL in association with the Apprenticeship Program. The compliance assistance activities conducted by DOL are designed to provide guidance to workers, businesses, and others with the knowledge and tools they need to understand their rights and responsibilities under DOL's rules.

What is the apprentice considered once they complete the 4 year apprenticeship program?

Once the apprentice has met all the criteria of the apprenticeship program, the apprentice is certified by DOL with a "Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship".

How does the Davis-Bacon and Related Act affect our apprentice?

The Davis-Bacon and Related Act requires payment of prevailing wages on federally funded or assisted construction projects but this does not affect the wages of the apprentice. A sponsor who has an apprentice working on a federally funded job can provide documentation of apprenticeship for that apprentice and keep that apprentice at the agreed upon wage rate. The DOL will provide proof of apprenticeship and wage rate for the apprentice, when requested by the sponsor.