Changes for those pursuing a journey level (01) electrician certification

This fact sheet describes changes in obtaining a journey level (01) electrician certification.

The changes are a result of laws taking effect July 1, 2023. With some exceptions, electricians wanting to qualify for the (01) certification exam must complete a registered apprenticeship program. There are other ways to qualify for the exam, as well as to gain journey level experience without registering as an apprentice.

The fact sheet describes what trainees need to do in learning the journey level trade, how to qualify for the exam, and register for an apprenticeship. More details are available at **www.Lni.wa.gov/ElectricalApprenticeship**.

Note: These changes do not affect specialty electrical contractors or the trainees they employ.

Learning the (01) trade

- Trainees who have 3,000 hours of electrical experience before July 1, 2023, or completed a two-year electrical construction and training program, may continue gaining (01) experience until July 1, 2026, without becoming registered apprentices.
- Trainees with fewer than 3,000 hours of electrical experience worked before July 1, 2023, must become registered apprentices to perform (01) work.
- **Starting July 1, 2026,** there will be only one way to become a journey level electrician — through completion of a registered apprenticeship program or equivalent.
- Submit your hours to L&I's Electrical Program before applying to an apprenticeship program.

Applying to an apprenticeship program

- Registered apprenticeship programs can grant advance standing based on hours approved by L&I's Electrical Program licensing section.
- For specialty electrician certificate holders in the 02, 03, 04, 06, 06A and 07 specialties, your program is required to credit 4,000 hours for previous experience.
- If you are not one of the electricians above, hours worked in those specialties may be evaluated for credit towards advanced standing.

Applicants approved for examination before July 1, 2023, are not required to complete an apprenticeship, even when reapplying after that date.

Qualifying for the 01 exam

Here's who can qualify for the exam:

- Those who have completed the experience and education requirements of a registered apprenticeship program.
- Military electricians with service in construction battalion units.

Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

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- State-licensed electricians licensed by other state licensing jurisdictions.
- Out of state electricians with proof of 16,000 hours of experience.
- **Until July 1, 2026:** Washington trainees who worked 3,000 hours of experience in the electrical construction trade before July 1, 2023 and have accrued the remainder of their experience. (96 hours of basic classroom instruction and 8,000 hours of experience; 4,000 of which must be new commercial or industrial installations).

Applicants approved for examination before July 1, 2023, are not required to complete an apprenticeship, even when reapplying after that date.

Choices for contractors

There are choices for electrical contractors wanting to hire those training to become (01) electricans after July 1, 2023:

- **Become a registered Training Agent** by partnering with an existing registered electrical apprenticeship program; or
- **Establish an apprenticeship program** of their own approved by the WSATC.
- **Hire trainees with specific experience.** Under law, trainees with 3,000 hours of electrical experience before July 1, 2023, or who have completed a two-year electrical construction training program, may continue to gain experience until July 1, 2026, without registering as an apprentice (or being a part of a registered apprenticeship program).

Learn more:

Questions? ElectricalApprenticeship@Lni.wa.gov.

www.Lni.wa.gov/ElectricalApprenticeship

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