

**WAC 296-46B-945 Qualifying for master, journey level,  
specialty electrician examinations. (Effective July 1, 2023.)**

**Commented [A1]:** Current version of WAC 296-46B-945 remains effective until July 1, 2023.

(1) General.

(a) All applicants must be at least ~~sixteen~~16 years of age.

(b) All applicants, from in or out of state, must demonstrate the completion of basic trainee classes described in WAC 296-46B-970 (4)(c)(ii)(D).

(i) Twenty-four hours where ~~two thousand~~2000 or more; but less than ~~four thousand~~4000 hours of work experience is required.

(ii) Forty-eight hours where ~~four thousand~~4000 or more; but less than ~~six thousand~~6000 hours of work experience is required.

(iii) Seventy-two hours where ~~six thousand~~6000 or more; but less than ~~eight thousand~~8000 hours of work experience is required.

(iv) Ninety-six hours where ~~eight thousand~~8000 or more of work experience is required.

**Qualifying for the master electrician examination.**

(2) An individual may take the master electrician's certificate of competency examination if the individual meets the requirements described in RCW 19.28.191 (1) ~~(d)~~(a) or ~~(e)~~(b).

**Commented [A2]:** References updated to reflect version of RCW 19.28.191 in effect on July 1, 2023.

**Qualifying for the master electrician examination from out-of-state.**

(3) No credit may be applied from out-of-state toward qualifying for a master electrician certificate of competency examination.

**Qualifying for the journey level electrician competency examination.**

~~(4) Until July 1, 2023, an individual may take the journey level electrician's certificate of competency examination if the individual held a current electrical training certificate and has worked for an employer who employs at least one certified master electrician, journey level, or specialty electrician on staff and the individual:~~

**Commented [A3]:** (4) Present subsection in effect deleted - superseded effective July 1, 2023. Establishes that subsection (5) provides exceptions to subsection (4).

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~~(a) Has been employed, in the electrical construction trade, under the direct supervision of a master electrician, journey level electrician or specialty electrician working in~~

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~~the appropriate specialty in the proper ratio, per RCW 19.28.161, for four years (eight thousand hours). Of the eight thousand hours:~~

~~(i) At least two years (four thousand hours) must be in new industrial and/or new commercial electrical installation (excluding all work described for specialty electricians or technicians) under the direct supervision of a master journey level electrician or journey level electrician while working for a general electrical contractor; and~~

~~(ii) Not more than a total of two years (four thousand hours) may be for work described as an electrical specialty in WAC 296-46B-920(2).~~

~~(b) Has completed a four-year apprenticeship program in the electrical construction trade that is registered with the state apprenticeship council while working under the direct supervision of a master journey level or journey level electrician in the proper ratio, per RCW 19.28.161; or~~

~~(c) Has completed a two-year electrical construction training program as described in RCW 19.28.191 for journey level electricians, and two years (four thousand hours) of work~~

~~experience in new industrial and/or new commercial electrical installations (excluding work described for specialty electricians or electrical technicians) under the direct supervision of a journey level electrician while working for a general electrical contractor in the proper ratio, per RCW 19.28.161. See WAC 296-46B-971 for additional training school information.~~

~~Beginning July 1, 2023~~Except as provided under (5) of this section, to qualify to take the journey level electrician's certificate of competency examination, an individual must have successfully completed an apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW or equivalent apprenticeship program approved by the department for the electrical construction trade in which the applicant worked in the electrical construction trade for a minimum of ~~eight thousand~~8000 hours. Four thousand of the hours must be in industrial or commercial electrical installation under the supervision of a master journey level electrician or journey level electrician and not more than a total of ~~four thousand~~4000 hours in all specialties under the supervision of a master journey level electrician, journey level electrician,

master specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty, or specialty electrician working in that electrician's specialty.

Electrical construction training hours gained in specialties requiring less than two years (i.e., ~~four thousand~~4000 hours) will not be credited towards qualification for a journey level electrician examination.

**Commented [A4]:** Housekeeping

The trainee and their employer and/or apprenticeship training director must attest to the accuracy of all information contained on affidavits of experience and apprenticeship graduation certificates used to verify eligibility for the examination.

(5) Until July 1, 2025, under temporary authority provided by chapter 19.28.195 RCW, the department finds good cause to allow the following for journey level examination candidates:

**Commented [A5]:** (5) - Establishes premise for good cause. Provides sunset date for temporary good cause provisions. Deleted text here in subsection (5) is superseded beginning on July 1, 2023 by new provisions in this subsection made under the authority of RCW 19.28.195 (Effective July 1, 2023.).

(a) Candidates, after department review and approval, are eligible to qualify for a journey level certification examination without completing an apprenticeship required under (4) of this section if they have:

**Commented [A6]:** (5)(a) - Under good cause authority provided by RCW 19.28.195 established in subsection (5) of this section. Subsection (5)(a) provides exam candidates with five alternatives to apprenticeship program completion requirements in RCW 19.28.191(1)(c)(Effective July 1, 2023.). Without alternatives, the only way for candidates to qualify for examination after that date is through completion of a RCW 49.04 apprenticeship program or equivalent program as related in (4) of this section.

(i) Successfully completed the work experience and education requirements of an 8000 hour electrical construction trade apprenticeship program approved under chapter 49.04 RCW. Four thousand of the hours shall be new industrial or commercial installations.

(ii) A journey level electrician certificate obtained through examination by another state licensing jurisdiction in the United States that requires at least 8000 hours of supervised experience in the electrical construction trade installing and maintaining electrical wiring and equipment of a type regulated by chapter 19.28 RCW. Four thousand of the hours shall be new industrial or commercial installations. All experience applied toward qualifying for examination must be experience gained in the state that issued the certificate or military service or both. Documentation of experience shall be the same as required in subsection (10) of this section;

(iii) Eight thousand hours of experience in the electrical construction trade installing and maintaining electrical wiring and equipment of a type regulated by chapter 19.28 RCW while

**Commented [A7]:** (5)(a)(i) - Modifies RCW 19.28.191(1)(c) and (5) of this section requirement to complete an apprenticeship program to qualify for examination (Effective July 1, 2023.). With this provision, registered apprentices can qualify for a journey level electrician certification examination before completing an apprenticeship program.

Without this provision, apprentices who complete apprenticeships would suffer hardship because they are no longer an apprentice and not yet a certified journey level electrician. Unless working in a specialty, all trainees must be registered apprentices according to RCW 19.28.161(3)(b).

Allowance made under the authority of RCW 19.28.195 (Effective until July 1, 2025.).

**Commented [A8]:** (5)(a)(ii) - For good cause established in subsection (5) of this section, candidates described herein may qualify for examination without completing an apprenticeship required by RCW 19.28.191(1)(c). Allowance is temporary under the authority of RCW 19.28.195 (Effective until July 1, 2025.).

**Commented [A9]:** (5)(a)(iii) - For good cause established subsection (5) of this section, candidates described herein may qualify for examination without completing an apprenticeship. Allowance is temporary under the authority of RCW 19.28.195 (Effective until July 1, 2025.).

servicing in a construction battalion in the armed forces of the United States.

(iv) Sixteen thousand hours of out of state experience in the electrical construction trade installing and maintaining electrical wiring and equipment of a type regulated by chapter 19.28 RCW. Four thousand of the hours shall be new industrial or commercial installations. Work experience documentation submitted to prove the candidate has worked the hours claimed must be an original notarized letter of work experience accompanied by documentation, see subsection (8) of this section, that can be used to verify the individual has worked the hours being requested provided by:

(I) An appropriately state licensed electrical contractor;

(II) Registered apprenticeship training director;

(III) Nationally recognized contractor/labor organization;

or

(IV) The individual's lawful employer.

(v) Before July 1, 2025, acquired 8000 hours of experience as follows:

**Commented [A10]:** (5)(a)(iv) For good cause established subsection (5) of this section, candidates described herein may qualify for examination without completing an apprenticeship. Allowance is temporary under the authority of RCW 19.28.195 (Effective until July 1, 2025.).

**Commented [A11]:** (5)(a)(v) - For good cause established in subsection (4) of this section, candidates described herein may qualify for examination without completing an apprenticeship required by RCW 19.28.191(1)(c)(Effective July 1, 2023.)if they accrue 8000 hours of qualifying experience as described in subsections (5)(a)(i)(A) and (5)(a)(i)(B).

(A) Before July 1, 2023, they lawfully worked in the electrical construction trade for at least 4000 hours while performing new industrial or commercial installation work not included for specialties in WAC 296-46B-920(2). Proof of hours worked in Washington must be received in accordance with WAC 296-46B-942(8)(d); and

**Commented [A12]:** (5)(a)(v)(A) - No exclusion of in-state, out of state, out of country, or military experience. Inclusive of lawfully worked industrial or commercial experience gained before July 1, 2023.

This date is significant. Beginning on that date a trainee must be a registered apprentice according to RCW 19.28.161(3)(b) to lawfully do new industrial or commercial work (Work not included for specialties in WAC 296-46B-920(2)).

(B) Before July 1, 2025, they lawfully gained the balance of 8000 hours of experience referenced under (i) of this subsection through one or more of following:

**Commented [A13]:** (5)(a)(v)(B) - Inclusive of specialty type experience gained in state, out of state, out of country, approved WA training school programs, and military service.

Subsections (5)(a)(v)(B)(I), (5)(a)(v)(B)(II), and (5)(a)(v)(B)(III) provide reference to existing types of acceptable experience.

(I) Experience performing work described in the following specialties defined in WAC 296-46B-920(2): residential (02); pump and irrigation (03); signs (04); limited energy system (06); HVAC/refrigeration (06A); or nonresidential maintenance (07). Proof of hours worked in Washington must be received in accordance with WAC 296-46B-942(8)(d).

(II) Experience hours gained through completion of a two-year electrical training program approved under WAC 296-46B-971. Military experience as allowed in subsection (12) of this section shall be allowed for journey level examination candidates.



(III) Experience in another country as allowed in subsection (13) of this section.

(b) Candidates shall only qualify for examination under temporary allowances in (a) of this subsection if their applications for examination and supporting documentation are received by the department before July 1, 2025.

**Commented [A14]:** (5)(b) - Establishes a date when applications and supporting documentation have to be received by the department to qualify under good cause. Date coincides with the expiration date for good cause authority provided by RCW 19.28.195.

**Qualifying for a specialty electrician certificate of competency or examination.**

(56) After review and approval by the department, an individual may qualify for a specialty electrician's examination and certificate of competency if the individual held a current electrical training certificate, and has worked for an employer who employs at least one certified master journey level electrician, journey level electrician, appropriate master specialty electrician, or appropriate specialty electrician on staff and the individual:

(a) Has been employed, in the electrical construction trade, under the direct supervision of an appropriate electrician in the appropriate specialty as follows:

**Table 945-1 Experience Hours**

Specialty	Minimum Hours of Work Experience Required to be Eligible for Examination <sup>(4)(5)</sup>	Minimum Hours of Work Experience Required for Certification
Residential certificate (02)	4,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	4,000
Pump and irrigation certificate (03)	4,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	4,000
Domestic pump certificate (03A)	720 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	2,000 <sup>(6)</sup>
Signs certificate (04)	4,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	4,000
Limited energy system certificate (06)	4,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	4,000
HVAC/refrigeration system certificate (06A)	4,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	4,000 <sup>(7)</sup>
HVAC/refrigeration – Restricted (06B)	1,000 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	2,000 <sup>(6)</sup>
Nonresidential maintenance certificate (07)	4,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	4,000
Nonresidential lighting maintenance and lighting retrofit certificate (07A)	720 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	2,000 <sup>(6)</sup>
Residential maintenance certificate (07B)	720 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	2,000 <sup>(6)</sup>
Restricted nonresidential maintenance certificate (07C)	1,000 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	2,000 <sup>(6)</sup>
Appliance repair certificate (07D)	720 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	2,000 <sup>(6)</sup>
Equipment repair certificate (07E)	1,000 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	2,000 <sup>(6)</sup>
Door, gate, and similar systems certificate (10)	720 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	2,000 <sup>(6)</sup>

- Notes:
- <sup>(1)</sup> Until the examination is successfully completed, the trainee must work under ~~one hundred~~100 percent supervision. Once the appropriate examination is successfully completed, the modified supervision trainee may work under zero percent supervision.
  - <sup>(2)</sup> The trainee may have only one zero percent supervision certificate in a specialty (valid for no more than two years). If the trainee has not gained the required work experience by the time the zero percent supervision certificate has expired, the trainee must get a ~~seventy-five~~75 percent supervision certificate and work under supervision until all required work experience hours are gained and credited towards the minimum work experience requirement.
  - <sup>(3)</sup> This specialty is not eligible for unsupervised trainee status as allowed in chapter 19.28 RCW.
  - <sup>(4)</sup> The trainee and their employer and/or apprenticeship training director must attest to the accuracy of all information contained on affidavits of experience used to verify eligibility for the examination.
  - <sup>(5)</sup> Neither previous work experience credit nor training school credit is allowed as a substitute for the initial hours of minimum work experience required to be eligible for examination unless the trainee's work experience hours under direct supervision are provided as required in ~~RCW 19.28.191 (1)(d)(e)(ii)~~.
  - <sup>(6)</sup> Electrical construction training hours gained in specialties requiring ~~two thousand~~2000 hours or less for certification will not be credited towards qualification for journey level electrician or any of the ~~four thousand~~4000 hour specialties, except as allowed by <sup>(7)</sup>, below.
  - <sup>(7)</sup> The ~~two thousand~~2000 minimum hours of work experience required for certification as an HVAC/refrigeration-restricted (06B) specialty electrician may be credited as ~~two thousand~~2000 hours towards the ~~four thousand~~4000 minimum hours of work experience required for certification as an HVAC/refrigeration (06A) specialty electrician. Hours of work experience credited from

**Commented [A15]:** Reference updated to reflect version of RCW 19.28.191 in effect on July 1, 2023.

the HVAC/refrigeration-restricted (06B) specialty cannot be credited towards qualification for taking the general electrician (01) examination or minimum work experience requirements.

<sup>(8)</sup> Experience hours may be coincidentally credited towards qualifying for electrician and plumber certifications. See RCW 19.28.191 (1)(d)(iv).

**Commented [A16]:** Reference updated to reflect version of RCW 19.28.191 in effect on July 1, 2023.

(b) Or has completed an appropriate two-year apprenticeship program in the electrical construction trade that is registered with the state apprenticeship council while working under the direct supervision of an electrician in the appropriate specialty in the proper ratio, per RCW 19.28.161.

Qualifying for a certificate of competency when the Washington electrical work experience is exempt from certification requirements in RCW 19.28.261.

~~(67)~~ After review and approval by the department, an individual may be granted work experience credit to take the ~~journey level~~/specialty electrician's competency examination when an original notarized letter of work experience accompanied by verifiable documentation is provided. - See subsection ~~(78)~~ of this section. For journey level competency examination candidates, see subsections (4) (Effective July 1, 2023.) or (5) (Effective until July 1, 2025.) of this section for requirements.

**Commented [A17]:** Housekeeping to implement RCW 19.28.195 good cause provisions in subsection (5).

For the purposes of this section, exempt work does not include work performed on property owned, in whole or part, by the individual seeking credit.

All exempt individuals must have a valid electrical training certificate when working to gain electrical work experience.

Work experience requested by an individual for telecommunications work must be gained while working for (01) general electrical, (02) residential, or (06) limited energy system electrical contractors as allowed by those scopes of work. When the work was performed, the individual must have a valid training certificate, be under the supervision of an appropriately certified journey level, residential or limited energy electrician, and be in compliance with RCW 19.28.191.

**General - Qualifying hours gained by applicants seeking work experience credit without a Washington electrician training certificate.**

(78) The type of on-the-job work experience must be similar to the credit being applied for and lawfully gained in the state or other entity where the work was performed. The individual

must submit verifiable documentation (e.g., payroll, time sheets, permits, supervision, etc.) that the department may use to ascertain the type of work performed and the number of hours worked for each type (i.e., specialty) of work.

Training hours credited for specialties requiring less than two years (i.e., ~~four thousand~~4000 hours) may not be credited towards qualification for general journey level electrician.

The documentation must include a complete description of the individual's usual duties with percentages attributed to each type (e.g., wiring, material handling, shop, low voltage, etc.)

The department may reduce the number of hours allowed if the:

(a) Individual did not have supervision during the training period when supervision was required by the jurisdiction where the training occurred;

(b) Training hours are not related to electrical construction;

(c) Training hours are not related to the specialty being applied for;

**Commented [A18]:** About half of the states have no licensing requirements. Supervision is defined as working under the supervision of a licensed electrician. Clarification clears up any discrimination for hours worked in states that have no licensing requirements.

(d) Documentation submitted by the individual does not fully verify the requested work experience; or

(e) Work credit was not lawfully gained.

**Training school credit.**

(~~89~~) No more than ~~fifty~~50 percent of the minimum work experience needed to qualify for specialty electrician certification is allowed for any training school program (e.g., a specialty requiring ~~two thousand~~2000 hours of minimum required work experience may receive no more than ~~one thousand~~1000 hours credit from an electrical construction training program).

See RCW 19.28.191 (1)(~~h~~)(e) for training school credit allowed for journey level applicants.

See WAC 296-46B-971 for additional information on training schools.

**Qualifying for the journey level/specialty electrician competency examination when work was performed in a state requiring electrician certification for the work performed.**

(910) After review and approval by the department, an

individual may be granted on-the-job work experience towards qualifying to take the ~~journey level~~/specialty electrician's competency examination for hours worked in the other state when the state certifies to the department:

(a) The type and number of hours of work performed within the state. Credit will not be allowed for work not done within the certifying state.

(b) That the work was legally performed under the other state's licensing and certification requirements; and

(c) The other state's certificate of competency was obtained by examination.

If the experience is for other than a new commercial or industrial installation, the individual must identify the specialty credit desired and provide verifiable documentation identifying the other state's allowed scope of work for the specialty, see subsection (78) of this section.

For journey level competency examination candidates, see subsection (4) (Effective July 1, 2023.) or (5) (Effective until July 1, 2025.) of this section for requirements.

**Commented [A19]:** Housekeeping to implement RCW 19.28.195 good cause provisions in subsection (5).

Qualifying for the journey level/specialty electrician competency examination when work was performed in a state that does not require electrician certification for the work performed.

~~(1011)~~ After review and approval by the department, an individual may be granted work experience credit to take the ~~journey level/~~specialty electrician's competency examination when an original notarized letter of work experience accompanied by documentation, see subsection ~~(78)~~ of this section, that can be used to verify the individual has worked the hours being requested is provided by:

- (a) An appropriately state licensed electrical contractor;
- (b) Registered apprenticeship training director;
- (c) Nationally recognized contractor/labor organization; or
- (d) The individual's lawful employer.

For journey level competency examination candidates, see subsection (4) (Effective July 1, 2023.) or (5) (Effective until July 1, 2025.) of this section for requirements.

**Commented [A20]:** Housekeeping to implement RCW 19.28.195 good cause provisions in subsection (5).



**Military experience.**

~~(1112)~~ After review and approval by the department, an

individual who has worked in the electrical construction trade performing work described in WAC 296-46B-920~~(1)~~(2) while serving in the armed forces of the United States may be eligible to take the examination for the certificate of competency as a ~~journey level or~~ specialty electrician. Credit may be allowed for hours worked or training received.

If an individual has military experience in a specialized electrical field (e.g., rating) that is similar to a specialty electrician category listed in WAC 296-46B-920, credit may be allowed toward the appropriate specialty certificate. Nuclear, marine, shipyard, shipboard, radar, weapons, aeronautical experience, or similar experience may be acceptable for no more than ~~fifty~~50 percent of the minimum required work experience for qualifying for electrician examination.

The department will evaluate and determine whether the submitted experience is related specifically to the electrical construction/maintenance trade regulated by chapter 19.28 RCW.

**Commented [A21]:** Housekeeping to implement RCW 19.28.195 good cause provisions in subsection (5).

For allowances for crediting military experience toward qualifying for a journey level competency examination, see temporary allowance in subsection 5(a)(iv) of this section effective until July 1, 2025. After that date, see allowance in RCW 19.28.191(1)(e)(Effective July 1, 2023.)

**Experience in another country.**

~~(1213)~~ After review and approval by the department, and if

an individual has a journey level electrician certificate from a country outside the United States that requires that at least four years of electrical construction training and certification is obtained by examination, the individual may be eligible for ~~four thousand~~4000 hours of the specialty credit allowed towards the qualification to take the Washington journey level electrician examination.

No more than ~~two years~~4000 hours of the required training to become a Washington journey level electrician may be for work described for specialty electricians or technicians in WAC 296-46B-920. In addition to the maximum of ~~four thousand~~4000 hours credit that may be allowed by this subsection, an additional ~~four thousand~~4000 hours of new commercial/industrial experience

**Commented [A22]:** Housekeeping to implement RCW 19.28.195 good cause provisions in subsection (5).

must be obtained using a training certificate in the state while registered in a journey level electrician apprenticeship program required by RCW 19.28.161(3)(b)(i)(Effective July 1, 2023.) under the supervision of a master journey level electrician or journey level electrician.

Documentation substantiating the individual's out of country experience must be submitted in English.

(~~1314~~) Out of country experience credit is not allowed toward a specialty electrician certificate.

(~~1415~~) Canadian journeyperson construction electricians with at least four years of electrical construction training who have obtained a construction electrician Red Seal endorsement by successfully completing a Red Seal examination are eligible to take the examination for the journey level electrician certificate of competency if they have possessed a Red Seal endorsement for one year.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.28 RCW, RCW 19.28.031 and 19.28.251. WSR 19-15-117, § 296-46B-945, filed 7/23/19, effective 8/23/19. Statutory Authority: Chapter 19.28 RCW. WSR 14-11-075, § 296-46B-945, filed 5/20/14, effective 7/1/14; WSR 13-03-128, § 296-46B-945, filed 1/22/13, effective 3/1/13.

Statutory Authority: RCW 19.28.006, 19.28.010, 19.28.031, 19.28.041, 19.28.061, 19.28.101, 19.28.131, 19.28.161, 19.28.171, 19.28.191, 19.28.201, 19.28.211, 19.28.241, 19.28.251, 19.28.281, 19.28.311, 19.28.321, 19.28.400, 19.28.420, 19.28.490, 19.28.551. WSR 09-20-032, § 296-46B-945, filed 9/29/09, effective 10/31/09; WSR 08-24-048, § 296-46B-945, filed 11/25/08, effective 12/31/08; WSR 06-24-041, § 296-46B-945, filed 11/30/06, effective 12/31/06; WSR 06-05-028, § 296-46B-945, filed 2/7/06, effective 5/1/06; WSR 05-10-024, § 296-46B-945, filed 4/26/05, effective 6/30/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 19.28.006, 19.28.010, 19.28.031, 19.28.041, 19.28.061, 19.28.101, 19.28.131, 19.28.161, 19.28.171, 19.28.191, 19.28.201, 19.28.211, 19.28.241, 19.28.251, 19.28.271, 19.28.311, 19.28.321, 19.28.400, 19.28.420, 19.28.490, 19.28.551, 2003 c 399, 2003 c 211, 2003 c 78, and 2003 c 242. WSR 04-12-049, § 296-46B-945, filed 5/28/04, effective 6/30/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 19.28.006, 19.28.010, 19.28.031, 19.28.041, 19.28.061, 19.28.101, 19.28.131, 19.28.161, 19.28.171, 19.28.191, 19.28.201, 19.28.211, 19.28.241, 19.28.251, 19.28.271, 19.28.311, 19.28.321, 19.28.400, 19.28.420, 19.28.490, 19.28.551, 2002 c 249, chapters 34.05 and 19.28 RCW. WSR 03-09-111, § 296-46B-945, filed 4/22/03, effective 4/22/03.]