

Southwest Louisiana WORKFORCE Resource Guide

CRAFT TRAINING APPENDIX

Industry and construction craft positions all require training. This can be achieved through associate degrees in various crafts as provided locally by SOWELA or through achieving a national certification.

There are a number of national certifications recognized by area industry and construction contractors. Some of the most notable include:

- American Welding Society (AWS)
- National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)
- National Institute for Certification of Engineering Technologies (NICET)
- American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT)
- National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO)

Southwest Louisiana industry employers and contractors rely heavily on these national certifications to ensure qualified employees are hired.

Locally, AWS and NCCER certification training and testing is available. Additional training course are also being developed for inspections certifications.



Where is training for these certifications offered in SWLA?

Currently, training for various certifications is available through the Calcasieu Parish School Board, ABC, Sowela, the Lamar Salter Campus in Leesville and the Morgan Smith Campus in Jennings. ABC offers testing services for program completers and experienced workers to validate their level of certification.

What craft certifications are available at these training centers in SWLA? (Based on 2014 curriculum data)

Craft Training Programs	Offered	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Assoc. Deg./ Diploma
Boilermaking	A	A	A	A	A		
Carpentry	A, C, S	A, C, S	A, C, S	A			
Concrete Finishing	S	S	S				
Construction Craft Laborer	C	C					
Core Curriculum	A, C, S, MS	A, C, S					
Electrical	A, C, S, MS, L	A, C, S, MS, L	A, C, S, MS, L	A	A		S
Heavy Equipment Operations	A	A	A				
HVAC	C, S	C, S	C, S				
Instrumentation	A, S	A	A	A	A		S
Insulating	A	A	A	A			
Machinist	S	S	S	S	S		
Millwright	A, S	A, S	A, S	A, S	A, S	S	
Mobile Crane Operations	A	A	A				
Pipefitting	A, C, S, MS	A, C, S, MS	A, C, S, MS	A	A		
Plumbing	C, S	C	C				S
Rigger Signal Person							
Scaffolding	A, S	A, S	S				
Welding	A, C, S, MS, L	A, C, S, MS, L	A, C, S, MS, L	A	A	A	S

A = ABC, C = Calcasieu Parish School Board, S = SOWELA, L = Lamar Salter Campus (Leesville), MS = Morgan Smith Campus (Jennings)

Below is an example of the qualifications and training credentials needed to earn higher pay in craft level positions with contractors operating in Southwest Louisiana industry.

Craft Level	Average Maintenance Rate	Qualifications
Laborer or Utility	\$14.00/hr.	Must be at least 18 years old for all of these craft positions.
Helper III	\$16.00/hr.	Three or more months experience OR enrolled in an approved craft curriculum, with passage of a helper's test (if required). <i>Most helpers are multi-craft (helps with multiple crafts). If enrolled in a craft program, students are typically moved up to the next level of helper or laborer after each successful semester.</i>
Helper II	\$17.00/hr.	Six or more months experience and showing initiative to learn the crafts and move up. A level one craft certification is usually required at minimum.
Helper I	\$18.00/hr.	Eighteen or more months experience and usually requires completion of at least two craft certification levels or graduation in a craft curriculum.
B-Mechanic	\$21.00/ hr.	Two or more years experience and passage of the respective craft test.
A-Mechanic	\$24.00/hr.	Four years experience and passage of the written craft test and completion of a performance verification on the jobsite OR completion of a Department of Labor Apprenticeship program.
Structure Welder	\$24.00/hr.	Four years experience and passage of a three-position weld test on a half-inch carbon steel plate.
Combination Welder	\$25.00/hr.	Four years experience, certified and passage of a two-inch heavy-wall pipe stick weld test and a schedule eighty-two inch pipe weld test.
Concrete Finisher	\$21.00/ hr. – A \$19.00/ hr. – B	A – Four years experience and passage of the craft test. B – Three years experience and passage of the respective contractor's concrete finisher craft test.
Scaffold Tech	\$21.00/ hr. –A \$19.00/ hr. –B	A – Four years experience and passage of the craft test. B – Three years experience and passage of the respective contractor's scaffold builders craft test.

What is the difference between craft trained versus craft certification?

Today's certified craft professional must be competent in both the knowledge and hands-on skills associated with their craft. NCCER uses the term "Knowledge Verified" on NCCER documentation to refer to candidates who successfully pass the written assessment for the first time.

NCCER Performance Verifications (PVs) are designed to assess an individual's skill level on specific tasks. PVs require a participant to demonstrate their skill level in a controlled, observable, and measurable manner and must be administered by a qualified objective performance evaluator.

Knowledge Verified + Performance Verified = CERTIFIED PLUS

Knowledge Verified:
Successful completion of the written assessment

Performance Verified:
Successful completion of the practical performance of a particular craft

Certified Plus:
Successful completion of both the written assessment and the corresponding performance verification