Apprenticeship Program

Apprenticeship combines employment, education and training in one workforce program. Employers and their employees develop, register and operate apprenticeship programs based on the needs of industry. Registered apprenticeship is governed by the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council (WSATC) under the authority of RCW 49.04 (app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=49.04) and WAC 296-05 (app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=296-05) .

Apprenticeship Training Committees (ATC) run apprenticeship programs for various trades as approved by the WSATC. Acceptance into an apprenticeship program is determined by the program's selection procedures. Two primary components include provisions for an employer/employee relationship with paid on-the-job training for a specific occupation and at least 144 clock hours of related supplemental (classroom) instruction per year. On-the-job training experiences are conducted under the direct supervision of a qualified journeyman who is affiliated with the apprentice's trade or program. Classroom instruction provides an opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that supplement on-the-job training and work experience.

Lower Columbia College is a partner in the Registered Apprentice system and provides or supports the related supplemental classroom instruction when requested by an apprenticeship program. All related supplemental instruction courses will be assessed for the appropriateness of awarding college level credit and documented on student transcripts. LCC, as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 (app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28B.10.016) , will grant as many credits as possible and appropriate, for related supplemental instruction in active state apprenticeship programs, within six years of the program's registration (or by the 2028-29 school year for programs registered during or before July 1st of 2022). Also, students earning direct credit at LCC through the Career Pathways/CTE Dual Credit program may be eligible to apply those credits toward the supplemental instruction component of a registered apprenticeship program.

LCC's apprenticeship advisor can refer you to the ATCs for the programs the College supports and provide you with information on applying Career Pathways/CTE dual credit toward an apprenticeship. Once accepted into a registered apprenticeship program, you may register for approved courses at LCC. Tuition for apprentices taking their required apprenticeship classes at LCC is reduced by 50% under WAC 131.28. Registered apprenticeship is part of the state Workforce Development System. Apprentices may be eligible for training assistance vouchers. Many apprenticeship programs are approved for veteran's education benefits. See below for contact and other important information.

For more information, please contact:

Tamra Gilchrist, Dean of Instruction (360) 442-2621, tgilchrist@lowercolumbia.edu

Crystal Heitz, Worker Retraining Educational Planner (360) 442-2334, cheitz@lowercolumbia.edu

Webpage for Regional Apprenticeship Information (www.lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/apprenticeship/apprenticeship-registration-and-tracking-system)

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