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STAND Associate Degree Program: Apply Now!

This month, the funding for the Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Nontraditional Degree Program (STAND) became available for the first time.

The STAND program allows West Virginia residents who have completed a Department of Labor (DOL) registered apprenticeship program (or West Virginia residents who are currently enrolled in a DOL apprenticeship program) to complete an Associate of Applied Science degree at a West Virginia public community and technical college by taking only the general education courses you need—all covered at no cost to the student.

West Virginia community and technical colleges are now enrolling for the fall 2025 semester.

Log on to www.cfww.com/STAND and apply today!

West Virginia Building and Construction Trades leaders say this program is possible because apprenticeship completers can receive academic credit for their time in DOL-registered apprenticeship programs.

"We have always said that our apprenticeship programs are the collegiate level of instruction in the construction industry," said George Capel, Government Relations Director for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council.

"Now, our members can receive academic course credit at West Virginia community and technical colleges for the work they have already done and continue working toward an associate degree, with tuition

costs covered by the state of West Virginia."

Capel says in some cases, trades members may only need to take 15 additional credit hours to receive an associate degree, which requires a total of 60 hours.

Meaning, apprenticeship completers can receive up to 45 credit hours for their apprenticeship (and sometimes more depending on the student).

The list of colleges where the STAND funding can cover the tuition for trades members include:

West Virginia University at Parkersburg, Mountwest CTC, West Virgin-

ia Northern CTC, New River CTC, Pierpont CTC, Blue Ridge CTC, Southern West Virginia CTC, Eastern West Virginia CTC, and BridgeValley CTC.

At West Virginia University at Parkersburg, plans are already in place to offer Communications and Economics classes during the 2025 fall semester as a part of their newly created Associate Degree of Applied Sciences in the Skilled Trades.

These classes will be available online.

During the 2025 West Virginia Legislative Session, new funds were made available

to cover tuition costs for associate degrees at WV community and technical colleges for members of the trades.

HB 2026, also known as the Budget Bill, included a \$1,033,650 budgetary appropriation to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, which covers associate degree tuition costs for individuals who are currently enrolled in or have completed a Department of Labor-registered apprenticeship program.

West Virginia resident DOL apprenticeship completers who enroll in the program have six years from the date of enrolling to complete their associate degree of applied sciences.

For more information about the STAND program log on to www.cfww.com/STAND and email georgecapel@actwv.org to be placed on a mailing list to keep you updated on the STAND program going forward. ■

**APPLY
Online**



www.cfww.com/STAND

STAND

SKILLED TRADES APPRENTICESHIP NONTRADITIONAL DEGREE PROGRAM

About the STAND Program

The Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Nontraditional Degree (STAND) Program is West Virginia's innovative solution to help skilled trades professionals advance their careers through higher education. This groundbreaking initiative recognizes that your apprenticeship training has already provided you with valuable technical expertise and hands-on experience. By counting your apprenticeship as college credit, the STAND Program allows you to complete an Associate of Applied Science degree at a West Virginia public community and technical college by taking only the general education courses you need—all covered at no cost to you.

Designed specifically for those enrolled in or who have completed registered apprenticeship programs, STAND bridges the gap between vocational training and academic credentials. Whether you're an electrician, plumber, carpenter, HVAC technician, or work in another skilled trade, this program opens doors to supervisory positions, business ownership, and increased earning potential. Best of all, you can complete your degree while continuing to work in your trade, making it possible to enhance your education without sacrificing your income.



Who is Eligible?

The STAND Program is open to skilled trades professionals who are currently enrolled in or have successfully completed a registered apprenticeship program recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor. To qualify, you must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident who meets federal student aid residency requirements, and you must have maintained West Virginia residency for at least one year prior to your application. Whether you're actively working through your apprenticeship or have already completed your training, this program provides a pathway to earn your college degree at no cost.

Once you meet these basic requirements, you'll need to enroll at one of West Virginia's nine participating community and technical colleges - a process that only takes a few minutes. Once you're enrolled, you'll complete eligible general education courses while maintaining satisfactory academic progress. The program is designed to work with your schedule—continue working in your trade while earning your degree with all tuition and approved academic fees covered.

Participating Institutions

- *Blue Ridge Community and Technical College*
- *BridgeValley Community and Technical College*
- *Eastern WV Community and Technical College*
- *Mountwest Community and Technical College*
- *New River Community and Technical College*
- *Pierpont Community and Technical College*
- *Southern WV Community and Technical College*
- *West Virginia Northern Community College*
- *West Virginia University at Parkersburg*

Program Benefits

The STAND Program helps you earn a college degree based on your skilled trades experience—without any cost or debt. Advance your career and increase your earning potential while keeping your current job.



No Cost to You

Complete the entire program tuition-free—all tuition and approved academic fees for general education courses are covered by the program. You'll earn your degree without any out-of-pocket expenses or student loans.



Flexible Learning

Complete general education courses while continuing to work in your trade through evening, weekend, and online options. The program fits your schedule as a working professional, letting you earn while you learn.



Credit for Your Skills

Your apprenticeship training translates directly into college credit, recognizing the thousands of hours you've already invested in learning your trade. You'll only need to complete general education courses to earn your degree.



Career Advancement

An associate degree can open doors to supervisory roles, business ownership, and higher earning potential in your trade. Your academic credentials will help you qualify for management positions and stand out in your field.



Receive your Associate Degree Tuition-Free!

Deadline for Fall 2025

Friday August 8



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Are you:

**Apprentice?
Journey Worker?
Retiree?**




West Virginia resident?

**Enrolled in or previously completed a
DOL-registered apprenticeship?**



**YOU'RE ELIGIBLE to apply
for the STAND Program
to receive an associate degree
tuition-free!**

Affiliated Construction Trades
600 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301
(304) 345-7570
www.actwv.org



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APPLY NOW

Deadline for Fall 2025:
Friday August 8



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