

Pre-Apprenticeship Program

FAQ

What is the objective of a pre-apprenticeship?

Our pre-apprenticeship program is designed to give participants the essential skills, knowledge, and experience needed to meet the minimum qualifications and apply for an apprenticeship program.

What are the minimum qualifications for a pre-apprentice?

- Must be 18 years old by the time of hire.
- Graduation from high school, a GED or equivalent.
- A valid Washington State driver's license within 90 days of appointment.

Should I apply for Pre-Apprentice or Apprentice?

Please see our [Apprenticeship page](#) for qualifications to determine if you should apply for a Pre-Apprentice or Apprentice position. If you meet the minimum qualifications of Tacoma Power apprenticeship programs, you should apply for the apprentice position instead of the pre-apprentice position.

Are there benefits for this role?

- Temporary employees earn benefits the first day of the month following 60 days of continuous employment (also, can elect to be waived)
- Temporary employees do **NOT** earn floating holidays or PTO, but are eligible for certain Holidays/holiday pay following six months of continuous employment and sick leave per the MPSL WA State law (3.69 hours for every 80 worked).
 - PTO/Vacation is retroactively awarded upon placement into a permanent full-time status if there is no lapse in date of service.

How many hours would I work a week as a pre-apprentice?

As a pre-apprentice, you can expect to work 40 hours a week, typically from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Where will classes be held as a pre-apprentice?

Classes will be held at Tacoma Public Utilities and our Southwest Training Center. Some travel will be necessary based on the need and where the training center and tours are located, but the program instructor will drive you to and from training and tours in a company vehicle.

What are some things I will learn during this pre-apprenticeship?

In the first four months, you'll explore a comprehensive curriculum covering math, basic electricity, AC/DC theory, and physical education to build a strong educational and physical foundation. You will then spend eight months in crew rotations, working alongside seasoned professionals. For more information, visit MyTPU.org/Apprenticeship.

Will you get to work with just one trade or crew?

These positions will get experience rotating and working on line, wire (substations), and meter and relay crews. You will also be in the classroom for the initial 12 weeks, then rotate on crews and be in the classroom two days a week throughout the year-long program.

Is there a limit to the number of pre-apprentices hired each year?

There is a limit to the number of pre-apprentices hired each year. Typically, we will hire between 3 and 6 pre-apprentices per year. It is a competitive program, and we encourage you to keep applying and ask for feedback if you are not selected.

Does this position prepare you to compete for the Tacoma Power apprenticeship program?

This program focuses on the curriculum and experience needed to apply for line, wire (substations), and meter and relay technician apprenticeships.

Is there a guaranteed job at the end of an apprenticeship?

No, there is no job guarantee at the end of the pre-apprenticeship. This program will not be a direct entry into our apprenticeship programs. However, it will prepare you with the experience, education, and skills to apply, pass the written test, and be competitive in the apprenticeship program hiring process.

What union do I work with?

IBEW Local 483

Where can I find information about the pre-apprenticeship?

Any other information about the pre-apprenticeship program can be found on MyTPU.org/Apprenticeship or by contacting TPowerApprentice@CityofTacoma.org.