



State Apprenticeship Standards  
for  
**Construction Craft Laborer**

Revised April 2023

**DRAFT**



## Foreword

The State Committees are a very important part of the structure that advises the Bureau on the administration of the apprenticeship program and on communicating with all the partners in the apprenticeship program. They have been an integral part of Wisconsin apprenticeship since shortly after its inception. Just as the Advisory Council reviews and recommends overarching apprenticeship policy, the State Committees recommend policy relating to their trade(s). (*Wisconsin Apprenticeship Manual, Chapter 2.3*)

These standards are consistent with the Wisconsin Apprenticeship Law, Wis. Stats. Chapter 106, Wis. Admin. Code DWD Chapter 295, Wis. Admin. Code DWD 296 and the Wisconsin Apprenticeship Manual.



# Final Section Alignment

## **Section One: Policies established in the *Wisconsin Apprenticeship Manual***

- I. Membership of a State Committee (*Chapter 2.5*)
- II. State Committee Operations (*Chapter 2.6*)
- III. Program Standards (*Chapter 5*)
- IV. Exhibit A (*Chapter 6.2*)

## **Section Two: Policies established by BAS and the State Committee**

- V. Organizations that Nominate Members
- VI. Minimum Qualifications of Applicants
- VII. Minimum Qualifications of Employers
- VIII. Approved Exhibit A
- IX. Requirements for Supervision
- X. Requirements for Completion
- XI. Requirements Unique to the Occupation(s)



## **Section One:**

# **Policies established in the Wisconsin Apprenticeship Manual**

### **I. Membership of a State Committee (*Manual, 2.5*)**

**A.** The membership of a State Committee is comprised of no less than four and no more than 20 members, consisting of an equal number of members representing employer and employee interests. Membership of a State Committee must represent all occupations overseen by that committee, all types of employers active in training apprentices, and a variety of geographic areas of the state. The Bureau may designate consultants to serve as non-voting members, including technical college representatives, apprenticeship coordinators, training instructors, and other interested parties.

#### **B. Employer Members**

Employer members will be nominated by professional organizations involved in the training of apprentices in the affiliated occupations. Such organizations must be actively training apprentices, or have done so within the last two years, to nominate a member. This requirement is waived for organizations involved in the development of a new apprenticeship occupation. Where no professional organization exists, the Bureau may identify and appoint members.

In a construction State Committee, the percentages of employer members representing union employers and non-union employers must approximate the percentages of union and non-union apprentices in the occupation(s) statewide. For example, a 10-member State Committee with 60 percent union and 40 percent non-union apprentices would have six union members and four non-union members.

#### **C. Employee Members**

Employee members are nominated to the Bureau by employee organizations and sponsor in-house apprenticeship committees. In cases where a sponsor has no in-house apprenticeship committee, nominees will be solicited from employers or professional organizations.

#### **D. Terms**

State Committee members will serve terms of three years and may be nominated for additional terms. Memberships will be staggered to maintain continuity. Vacancies may be filled, or members changed during an active term, at the request of the nominating entity.

## **Section One:**

### **Policies established in the Wisconsin Apprenticeship Manual**

The Bureau may remove a person from membership on a State Committee for one or more of the following reasons:

- 1) Failure to attend at least 75 percent of the committee meetings during the membership term, unless excused by the Bureau for good cause;
- 2) Failure to meet the membership requirements outlined in this section, unless a documented exception is granted by the Bureau; and/or
- 3) Violation of any state apprenticeship statute, rule or standard.

#### **II. State Committee Operations (*Manual, 2.6*)**

##### **A. Meetings**

State Committees meet at least twice per year, or more frequently if requested by the Bureau, in conformity with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law. The committee will elect two co-chairs: one employer member and one employee member. A quorum exists when at least two employer and two employee members are present. Official meeting minutes will be prepared and catalogued by the Bureau.

##### **B. Duties**

State Committees are designed to arrive at recommendations based on consensus, meaning that the recommendations they make to the Bureau should reflect the interests of the collective group, rather than a simple majority. Reaching consensus does not assume that every member will be in complete agreement, but that a compromise has been reached.

Primary State Committee functions are to:

- i. Advise the Bureau and educators, such as the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) and private training centers, on curriculum content and delivery of related instruction concerning the State Committee's apprenticeship programs.
- ii. Make recommendations for revisions to the state minimum standards to the State Committee's affiliated occupations every five years, or more frequently as needed.

These minimum standards include:

- a. The provisions of the Exhibit A, with the exclusion of compensation;
- b. Minimum qualifications for apprentices, such as entrance scores;
- c. Minimum qualifications for apprentice sponsors; and
- d. Employer requirements to serve as an apprentice trainer.



## Section One:

# Policies established in the Wisconsin Apprenticeship Manual

- iii. Advise the Bureau on policies and procedures pertaining to the administration of each apprenticeship occupation associated with the State Committee, including matters related to:
  - a. Apprentice reviews;
  - b. Apprentice selection processes;
  - c. Assessing and awarding credit for previous experience and education;
  - d. Local apprenticeship committee operations and meeting frequency;
  - e. Apprentice layoff and transfer policies and procedures;
  - f. The formation and dissolution of local apprenticeship committees;
  - g. Outreach and expansion strategies.

### III. Program Standards (*Manual, Chapter 5*)

#### A. Term of Apprenticeship

The sponsor must indicate, for each occupation, the basis for tracking apprentice progress: competency, time, or a hybrid. Regardless of the tracking method, an apprenticeship must entail at least one year of work experience and related instruction.

##### *Competency-Based*

The occupation must be approved for administration as a competency-based apprenticeship by U.S. DOL. If not, the sponsor must consult the Bureau to determine if it is suitable as a competency-based occupation. The program standards must detail:

- a. The on-the-job learning component of the apprenticeship program;
- b. The required competencies to be mastered during the apprenticeship;
- c. How demonstration of the competencies will be determined, including written and hands-on evaluations that occur in a controlled setting that permit accurate and verifiable results;
- d. The related instruction, which must comply with the apprenticeship statute, regulations, and rules.

##### *Time-Based*

The traditional method of apprenticeship delivery, consisting of at least 2,000 hours of on-the-job learning. This approach monitors an apprentice's progress through tasks described in a work process schedule for the occupation.

## **Section One:**

# **Policies established in the Wisconsin Apprenticeship Manual**

### *Hybrid*

Measures skill attainment through a combination of a specified minimum number of hours of on-the-job learning and successful demonstration of competencies as described in Exhibit A to the apprenticeship contract.

### **B. Work Processes**

Standards must contain a schedule of work processes associated with the apprenticeship occupation.<sup>41</sup> The work processes are an outline of supervised work experience that the apprentice will receive through on-the-job learning.

### **C. Related Instruction**

The provision for organized related and supplemental instruction relevant to the occupation must be outlined in the standards and include a minimum of 144 hours of paid related instruction per year for the first two years of the program. Programs which are longer than two years must have at least 400 hours of paid related instruction during the term of the apprenticeship. Instruction may be delivered through the classroom, occupational or industry courses, electronic media, or other instruction approved by the Bureau. Instructors must meet educational and occupational requirements established by the Bureau and WTCS.

### **D. Numeric Ratio Description**

Program standards must identify a numeric ratio of apprentices to journeymen that is consistent with proper supervision, training, safety, and continuity of employment. The ratio language shall be specific as to its application to the job site, workforce, department, or plant—with the employer's workforce being the preferred manner of expressing the ratio for Wisconsin registered apprenticeship programs. The ratio shall not exceed one journeyman per apprentice, except where a collective bargaining agreement applies, then the ratio prescribed in the agreement may be used.

### **E. Probationary Period**

The length of the probationary period for the apprentice, in relation to the full apprenticeship term, must be designated in the program standards. The probationary period cannot exceed 25 percent of the length of the program, or one year, whichever is shorter.

# **Section One:**

## **Policies established in the Wisconsin Apprenticeship Manual**

### **IV. Exhibit A (*Manual, 6.1*)**

**A.** The apprenticeship contract details the stipulations of the apprenticeship training program and incorporates the program standards by reference. The contract must be agreed to and signed by the sponsor, the director of the Bureau (on behalf of the Department), and the apprentice (or in the case of a minor, the parent or guardian). The contents of each apprentice contract are not valid unless approved by the Bureau. The Bureau generates each contract. The contract face template, created by the Bureau, is in accordance with Wis. Admin. Code Ch. 295.07 (*Manual, Chapter 6, first paragraph*).

**B.** Each apprenticeship contract will include a document designated as "Exhibit A." An Exhibit A is developed for each occupation associated with a program sponsor and included in the program standards. The Bureau approves the content of the Exhibit A through its authority to set local and state apprenticeship standards.<sup>70</sup> The Exhibit A contains a synopsis of the following requirements of the apprenticeship, as approved by the Bureau, and in accordance with the program standards and Wis. Admin. Code Ch. 295.07.

#### **C. Term of apprenticeship**

The term may be based on competency, time, or a hybrid of the two. If time-based, then the number of hours, months or years necessary to complete the apprenticeship program are stated. If competency based, the Exhibit A includes a description of the skills to be attained and any on-the-job learning component. A hybrid program will state the number of hours to be spent by the apprentice on the job along with a description of the skills to be attained.

#### **D. Probationary period**

The period and stipulations of the probationary period, which can either be expressed in hours or months.

#### **E. School attendance**

The number of hours of paid related instruction and the related instruction provider.

#### **F. Work process schedule**

The basic job tasks of the apprenticeship program. For a time-based program, the approximate time the apprentice will spend on each work process. For a competency-based program, a description of the skill sets to be attained. A hybrid program will contain a combination of both. The schedule must be comprehensive

## **Section One:**

# **Policies established in the Wisconsin Apprenticeship Manual**

enough to reflect the intent to train the apprentice in all primary job tasks of the related occupation. The schedule need not be followed in the sequence outlined in the Exhibit A.74

### **G. Minimum compensation to be paid**

The graduated wage scale, including the skilled wage rate, to be paid to the apprentice.

### **H. Credit provisions**

A description of any advanced standing work or education credit awarded to an apprentice and the wage commensurate with that advanced standing.

### **I. Special provisions**

The special provisions describe additional stipulations or requirements of the apprenticeship program not contained elsewhere in the apprentice contract. For example, this section may detail additional unpaid instructional hours that the apprentice is required to take on their own time, required industry or employer certifications, or training courses mandated by the Bureau.

## Section Two: Policies Established by BAS and the State Committee

### 1. Organizations that Nominate Members to the State Committee

**(Current Standards, II A-B)**

- A. Employer representative names will include nominees submitted to the BAS by
- i. Allied Contractors Employers Association
  - ii. Associated Builders and Contractors of Wisconsin
  - iii. Associated General Contractors of Greater Milwaukee
  - iv. Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin
  - v. Distribution Contractors Association
  - vi. Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association
  - vii. Wisconsin Roadbuilders Association
  - viii. Wisconsin Underground Contractors Association

**(Current, II. A)**

B. Employee representative names will include nominees submitted to BAS by the Wisconsin Laborers District Council and affiliated local unions. **(Current, II. B)**

### 2. Minimum Qualifications for Applicants

A. All applicants must satisfy the minimum qualifications, including applicants eligible for direct entry or direct interview. **(DOL)**

B. The Bureau affirms that both U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens, who are authorized to work in the U.S., can participate in a registered apprenticeship so long as they meet the qualifications and requirements for enrollment into a particular program and are not required by law, regulation, or government contract to be a U.S. citizen **(Office of Apprenticeship Bulletin No 2023-42, January 5, 2023).**

C. Apprentices, at the time of assignment for apprenticeship, shall not be less than eighteen (18) years of age. **(Current, II. First sentence)**

D. Applicants must furnish proof of age. **(Current, II. C)**

E. Applicants must demonstrate or attest to the physical ability to perform the work of the trade with or without reasonable accommodation. **(Current, II. A)**

F. Applicants who reach employability status may be required to successfully pass a drug screening test prior to placement. **(Current, II. B)**

## Section Two: Policies Established by BAS and the State Committee

G. A reading, understanding, writing and communicating ability as would enable the applicant to perform the tasks of the Construction Craft Laborer in a safe manner and comprehend the subject matter taught in related instruction. **(Current, II. D)**

H. Applicants must meet or surpass the statewide minimum scores on one of the following assessments:

Accuplacer Classic	Accuplacer Next Gen	ACT
Arithmetic: 35	Arithmetic: 220	Math: 14
Reading: 55	Reading: 236	Reading: 15

i. If there is a cost for taking the assessment, the apprentice applicant will pay for it.

ii. If an applicant does not achieve the minimum score required, they may retest on that test component(s) after 30 days with some remediation required before retesting for the third or more times.

iii. Scores will be accepted for five years from the date of assessment. **(Current, II. E)**

I. Applicants must have reliable transportation to job site. **(Current, II. F)**

### 3. Minimum Qualifications of Employers

The employer must:

A. be legally established **(VIII, A)**

B. demonstrate financial responsibility if requested **(VIII, A)**

C. have been engaged in the construction industry as an employer for at least one year **(VIII, A)**

D. not displace a journeyworker by hiring an apprentice **(VIII, B)**

E. employ a full-time journeyworker or work at the trade full-time so as to ensure safe and quality training at all times **(VIII, C)**

D. when applying for training status, must provide evidence of Unemployment Insurance and Worker's Compensation coverage to the local committee **(VIII, D)**

## **Section Two: Policies Established by BAS and the State Committee**

### **4. Schedule of Work Processes**

See the approved Exhibit A.

### **5. Requirements for Supervision**

Apprentices shall work under the supervision of a journeyworker on all work normally performed by such journeyworker **(XV, A)**

### **6. Requirements for Completion**

### **7. Requirements Unique to the Occupation(s)**

When more than 10 percent of the already registered apprentices are unemployed for 30 days or more, there will be no acceptance of new apprentices until the unemployment rate drops below the 10% level. The 10% will be based on the number of apprentices registered and unemployed at the time of the request. **(XV, B)**