



Northern California  
Chapter

## ABC NorCal Placement Test Guidelines

Applicants with prior experience in the trade may be eligible to take a placement test in order to receive program credit for the previously completed work hours.

In order to take the ABC NorCal placement test, the applicant must first receive approval of the UAC. This will be done during the interview portion of the application process.

The applicant must then provide verifiable proof of at least one year of work hours or field experience in the specific trade he/she is applying for:

Carpentry	1200 hours required per each year of placement test
Electrical	1600 hours required per each year of placement test
Construction Craft Laborer	1000 hours required per core module placement test
Painting	1200 hours required per each year of placement test
Plumbing	1800 hours required per each year of placement test

At the time of the interview, the applicant will be given a placement test worksheet which lists the work processes for that trade. This form will need to be signed by both the employer verifying the hours worked and by the applicant.

The applicant must pass the full year's placement test in order to receive program credit for that year. Passing the placement test is achieved by passing each module ([see module breakdown by trade](#)) of each year's placement test with a score of 70% or better. If the applicant passes the full year's test and has the required verifiable proof to test through the subsequent year, the applicant can request to take the subsequent year's test.

If the applicant submits verification of hours worked above the single year's equivalence but not enough for an additional full year, those hours will not be credited towards the completion of the ABC NorCal Apprenticeship Program.

Credited time in the program will be determined based on the prior documented work hours and the result of the placement test.

In the event the applicant successfully passes the entire program's placement test, once registered in the program, the apprentice must complete a minimum of six months of the program in order to receive a certificate of completion from the State of California and the Department of Labor and recognition as a graduate of the ABC NorCal Apprenticeship Program.

The placement test and grading will be administered by the ABC NorCal apprenticeship staff. The test can only be taken once and must be taken prior to initial dispatch.

After completion of the placement test, the applicant will be notified of the results and the level in which he/she will start the program. At that point the applicant will be ready for dispatch and placed on the out of work list for approved applicants. If the applicant was sponsored by a company, he/she will be ready for dispatch to the sponsored company.

## Placement Test Module Breakdown by Trade

Carpentry, electrical and painting trades must pass the core modules along with their year one modules in order to successfully pass the first year placement test. The only exceptions are the construction craft laborer trade which only has a core module test and the plumbing trade which only has a year one placement test.

### Core Modules:

Basic Safety  
Introduction to Construction Math  
Introduction to Hand Tools  
Introduction to Power Tools  
Introduction to Construction Drawings  
Basic Communication Skills  
Basic Employability Skills  
Introduction to Materials Handling

### Carpentry Year One Modules:

Orientation to the Trade  
Building Materials, Fasteners and Adhesives  
Hand and Power Tools  
Reading Plans and Elevations  
Floor Systems  
Wall and Ceiling Framing  
Roof Framing  
Introduction to Concrete and Reinforcing Materials  
Windows and Exterior Doors  
Basic Stair Layout

### Electrical Year One Modules:

Orientation to the Electrical Trade  
Electrical Safety  
Introduction to Electrical Circuits  
Electrical Theory  
Introduction to the National Electrical Code  
Device Boxes  
Hand Bending  
Raceways and Fittings  
Conductors and Cables  
Basic Electrical Construction Drawings  
Residential Electrical Services  
Electrical Test Equipment

### Painting Year One Modules:

Ladders, Scaffolds, Lifts, and Fall Protection  
Identifying Surfaces/Substrate Materials and Conditions  
Protecting Adjacent Surfaces  
Basic Surface Preparation  
Sealants and Repair/Fillers  
Introduction to Paints and Coatings  
Brushing and Rolling Paints and Coatings

### Plumbing Year One Modules:

Plumbing History, Codes, and Principles  
Tools of the Plumbing Trade  
First Aid and Safety  
Basic Math for Plumbing  
Water Supply, Water Sources, Waste Disposal, and Sewage Disposal  
Gases in Plumbing Work  
Mechanical Properties and Protection of Building Materials and Structures  
Piping Materials Used in Plumbing Work  
Joining Methods for DWV and Pressure Piping  
Squares, Square Roots, and Basic Geometry  
Plumbing Fixtures  
Faucets and Related Devices  
Valves  
Building Plans, Drawings, and Scale Rulers  
Sketching