



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 orientation 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 orientation, 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:

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