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.

Rev. 12.2015
## 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