Apprenticeship Program Annual Update 2025-26
Crane and Hoisting Equipment Operator - Tower Crane

Tower Crane Operator Apprenticeship Education Program (AEP) Overview

Consists of 2 periods of training with 2nd period being on-the-job work experience only.

1320 work experience hours are required to complete the 1st period, and 1500 work experience hours are required to complete the 2nd period.

All periods of classroom instruction training are offered at the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 955.

The AEP was last updated in 2011. It is scheduled for a revision process beginning in 2027 for implementation in 2029.

Post-secondary institutions, unions or associations may offer other programs related to the Tower Crane Operator AEP. Contact your local post-secondary institution, union or association for offerings and availability

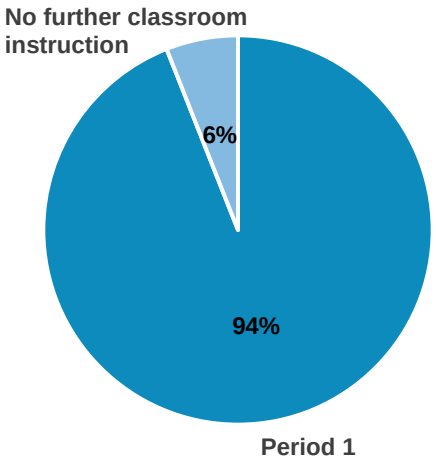
Helpful Tradesecrets Links for Apprentices

- **Tower Crane Operator profile:** a detailed overview of the trade, giving a clear picture of what the trade involves, how training works, and what certification requires.
- **Classroom instruction:** provides detailed information on training content, enrollment, attendance expectations, delivery methods, and the policies apprentices must follow.
- **Class Catalogue:** an online tool that lets apprentices look up all available apprenticeship training classes for their specific trade and training year.
- **Apprenticeship Awards and Scholarships:** information on financial support for apprentices and high-school students entering or progressing through the trades.

2025-26 Alberta Tower Crane Operator Statistics

Registered Apprentices by Period (as of October 5, 2026)

Percentage Breakdown



Number of Apprentices Per Period

Period 1	173
Period 2	0 (on-the-job only)
No Further Classroom Instruction Required	11

Classification: Public

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Apprentices by Office

Trade	Bonnyville	Calgary	Edmonton	Fort McMurray	Grande Prairie	Hinton	Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Peace River	Red Deer	Vermillion	Trade Total
Tower Crane Operator	1	88	83	1	2	1	1	2		4	1	184

Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT) Exams Pass Rates

Provincial pass rates and exam averages between October 5, 2024 and October 5, 2026.

Exam	Pass	Fail	Supplemental	Total
Entrance Exam	5	8	0	13
Period 1 Theory 1	7	5	0	12
Period 1 Theory 2	9	9	0	18
Practical Exam 1	3	0	0	3
Practical Exam 2	1	0	0	1
Total trade	25	22	0	47

Interprovincial Red Seal Program

Tower Crane Operator is a Red Seal trade and is designated in all 10 provinces in Canada. The current Red Seal Occupational Standard was finalized in 2023.

Tower Crane Operator Red Seal Alberta Results

The Red Seal exam results for Alberta between October 5, 2024, and October 5, 2026.

Red Seal Exams	Pass	Fail	Total
Interprovincial (Red Seal) Program	**5**	**1**	**6**
Trade Qualifier Program	**2**	**2**	**4**
Total trade	**7**	**3**	**10**

Red Seal Endorsements*	2022	2023	2024	2025
Apprentices issued Red Seal Endorsements	1	2	0	1
Other Individuals issued Red Seal Endorsements				
Total trade	**2**	**0**	**0**	**1**

**Note: Red Seal endorsements are also issued to individuals other than those who have completed the Alberta apprenticeship program. The number includes individuals issued a Red Seal endorsement who were certified through Alberta's Trade Qualifier Program or industry training and certification program, and to individuals who successfully completed the interprovincial examination in Alberta rather than in the jurisdiction in which they were originally certified.*

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Directing the Future of Alberta Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship education and the direction of the skilled trades in Alberta is a partnership between apprentices, employers, industry, training providers and government. The Alberta Board of Skilled Trades and the My Skilled Trades Network are two groups with responsibilities for directing the future.

Alberta Board of Skilled Trades (ABST)

ABST is responsible for advising the Minister of Advanced Education on the direction of Alberta's designated trades certification system. To learn more about ABST and its members, visit ABST.

My Skilled Trades Network (MySTN)

MySTN is the AIT consultation network where experienced tradespeople can volunteer to provide feedback that helps shape apprenticeship education, exams, and training resources. It is hosted on the Tradesecrets website and is open to anyone with experience in an Alberta designated trade. To apply to join the network and learn more, visit MySTN.

We value your feedback!

If you have specific feedback about this trade you want to share with us, please email

TradeIndustryFeedback@gov.ab.ca

and include the trade name in the subject line.

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