

Alternative Pathways to Certification

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Welcome!

- Background
- Prior Learning Assessments
- Early Completion
- Trades Qualifier (TQ) Programs

Language Changes

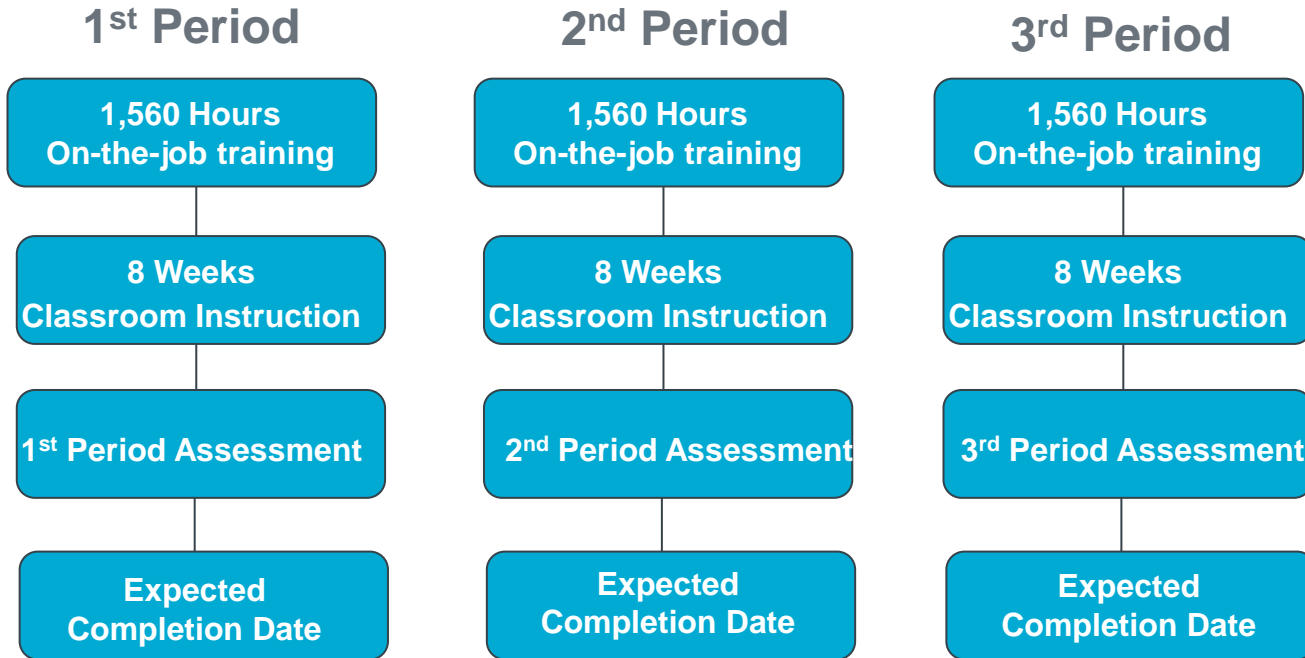
From	To
<i>Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act</i>	<i>Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act</i>
Journeyman Certificate	Journeyperson certificate
Certificate	Credentials and Certificates
Apprenticeship contracts	Apprenticeship education agreements
Indentured	Registered and sponsored
Compulsory/optional	Restricted activities
Technical training	Classroom instruction
Employers	Sponsors
Supervisors	Mentors
Executive Director	Registrar and Administrator
Record book	Competence portfolio
Apprenticeship programs	Apprenticeship Education Programs

Background

- Most individuals obtain journeyperson certification by completing an apprenticeship education program.
 - ~80% on-the-job instruction & ~20% classroom instruction
- Alternative route examples:
 - pre-employment programs
 - previous on-the-job work experience
 - ‘challenge’ an exam in lieu of classroom instruction
 - recognized Journeyperson certificate without Red Seal from another jurisdiction

Example of an Apprenticeship Cycle

Welder Example



Prior Learning Assessments

What are Prior Learning Assessments?

Prior Learning Assessments (PLA's) are used for:

- Entry into an apprenticeship program (Entrance Exam).
- Advanced standing in an apprenticeship education program based on previous work experience or training.
- Challenging a period exam.

How to PLA

- PLA applications can be initiated through a MyTradesecrets account.
 - Can be completed on a laptop or smartphone.
 - Typically used for pre-employment and diploma program students.
- Sponsor letter requesting an exam challenge directly to local apprenticeship office.
- Fee is \$150 (practical exam fees may also apply).

What This Means

- Entrance exams can be used to meet the entrance requirements for a trade.
- An apprentice with previous work experience or training may challenge an exam.

Early Completion

What is Early Completion?

Apprentices may complete their program before the Expected Completion date for their final period if:

- All early completion eligibility requirements are met, and
- A signed letter is submitted requesting early completion of their apprenticeship education program.

Early Completion Eligibility

- Be in the final period,
- Complete all required classroom instruction & assessments,
- Obtain final period hours in the final period.

What This Means

- In some instances, an apprentice can apply for early completion in their trade.
- Early completion requires support from current sponsors as well as meeting all eligibility criteria.

Trades Qualifier Program

Trades Qualifier (TQ) Program

- Provides experienced tradespeople with an opportunity to attain certification.
- Two options:
 - Trades Qualifier – Recognized Credential
 - Trades Qualifier – Work Experience
- Will only receive a Journeyperson certificate, no Alberta education credential will be awarded.

Trades Qualifier – Recognized Credential

- Pathway for certified tradespeople who hold a recognized credential from another jurisdiction without a Red Seal endorsement.
- Required to provide a copy of their (non-expired) recognized credential for verification.
- Application fee of \$60.

Trades Qualifier – Work Experience

- For uncertified tradespeople who have previous (verifiable) work experience in the trade, or
- Individuals who have an expired recognized credential without a Red Seal endorsement.
- Application fee of \$450.

TQ – Work Experience (continued)

- Satisfy the work experience requirements **prior** to application submission.
- Ensure the work experience time can be verified.
- Complete theory exam and any other assessments.
- Complete TQ requirements within 18 months of approval.

How to Initiate a Trades Qualifier

- The online application can be initiated through a MyTradesecrets account.
- Prompts during the application indicate when to upload information (e.g. Employer Declaration Letter).
- Uploads can be completed on a laptop or smartphone.
- Ensure all previous work history includes current contacts for verification.

What This Means for Industry

- If a tradesperson from another jurisdiction is hired, there may be options for Alberta certification outside of the apprenticeship program.
- If a Journeyperson is hired in Alberta with a Canadian trade certificate bearing a Red Seal endorsement, no further training or documentation is required.
- Find more information on our website:
<https://tradesecrets.alberta.ca>

Questions?

