

## Are You in High School or Looking for a New Career?

*You may want to consider the benefits of becoming an Electrician.*

**Do you like working with your hands**, enjoy working with tools, and can figure out how things work? If you answered yes--you may want to consider a career as an electrician.

**Careers in the trades:** A career as an electrician is a respected and needed profession in our modern and increasingly electrified world.

Some in the skilled trades are beginning to retire, and a new generation of skilled men and women will be needed to fill those positions.

**Electricians make good salaries for their skilled training and experience.** Many work for electrical contractors and others own electrical contracting businesses themselves. They in turn provide employment and on-the-job training for employees and apprentices. Electricians play an important role in their communities.

**While the traditional college path may not be for everyone**, learning more about what it takes to pursue an electrician career and choosing the right electrician education program--could lead you to a rewarding and satisfying career as a skilled electrician!

Visit us at [WWW.GOWECA.COM/EXPLORE CAREER](http://WWW.GOWECA.COM/EXPLORE CAREER)

## How Can I Become a Skilled Electrician?



Those interested in pursuing the electrician career path must take education or training courses like an **electrician trainee program**, or have entered and completed a formal **apprenticeship program**. In addition, program graduates are required to take the CA state electrician certification exam as required by law.

### How Long Are the Programs?

Depending on the education path a person takes, as an electrician trainee or apprentice, and the type of electrician work they want to specialize in--**a WECA student can graduate in 3-5 years.**

### How Much Will it Cost?

**WECA's electrician education programs are affordable.** For example, tuition for WECA's apprenticeship programs are paid by the apprentice's employer. WECA's electrician trainee tuition is approximately \$1156 per year--comparable to a year's tuition and fees at a CA Community College. Compare that to \$6,695-13,200 for in-state university tuition or \$30,094 annual tuition at a private college.

## WECA Electrician Education Programs



### Electrician Trainee Program

WECA's Electrician Trainee Program offers an electrician education focused on a blended learning system that's flexible, convenient, and effective.

Courses are taken online over instructor-led live webcasts in the evenings, allowing students to conveniently participate after work without having to travel. Students typically attend one onsite, hands-on lab day per course at one of WECA's modern training facilities. All classes are exclusively taught by experienced electrical industry professionals. **Electrician Trainees can complete their coursework program in four years, while independently gaining the on-the job hours necessary to sit for the certification exam.**

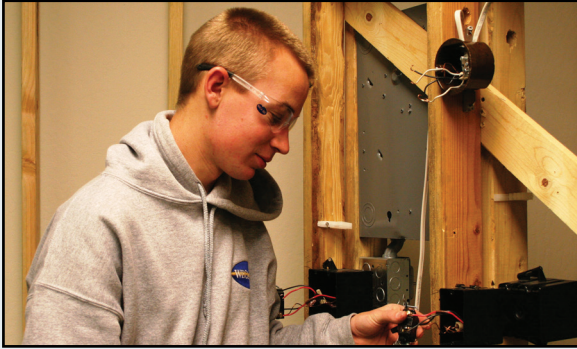
### Apprenticeship Programs

Apprenticeship is a system of learning in the classroom *and* receiving on-the-job training while earning wages. WECA's apprentices attend classes in an accelerated and intensive format consisting of full-time classroom and lab instruction for two consecutive weeks every six to seven months. Each two week session is equal to one semester.

An apprentice's tuition is paid for by a WECA member contractor whom they are working for as an apprentice. **WECA offers three apprenticeship programs: Commercial Inside Wireman, Residential Wireman, and Voice-Data-Video (VDV) Sound and Communications System Installer.**

## What is an Electrician?

**Electricians** install, connect, test, and maintain electrical systems for a variety of purposes including power, lighting, climate control, security, communications and electronic controls for machinery.



**Electricians work with** blueprints, follow the National Electrical Code (NEC) and must comply with state and local building requirements. They use many tools and specialized test equipment. Although most electricians specialize in either construction or maintenance, a growing number do both.

**Electricians today are at the forefront of emerging technologies** that require their skilled knowledge to plan and install solar electric systems, electric car charging stations, smart buildings and homes, and consult about energy efficiency.

**They work on commercial construction, public projects, and residential settings** and find themselves in many working conditions. Some may work in dusty, dirty, hot or wet conditions, or in confined areas, ditches or uncomfortable places. Electricians risk injury from electrical shock, falls, and other job site hazards. They must follow strict safety procedures like wearing eye protection, hard hats and gloves.

**Many electricians work** for electrical contractors or own electrical contractor businesses themselves. **The median wage in 2014 for electricians in California is \$61,688, or \$29.66 hourly.\***

Source: CA EDD Occupational Employment Statistics Survey. 2014 wages do not reflect self-employment.

***In 3-5 years a WECA graduate can become a skilled, state-certified electrician making over \$60,000 per year with little to no student loan debt.***

## How do I get started?

**See your career advisor.**

**Contact us at 877-444-9322**

**Visit us online at [www.goweca.com/explorecareer](http://www.goweca.com/explorecareer)** for more information about an electrician education program that's best for you.



WECA Northern California Training Facility

WECA also has training facilities in Riverside and San Diego, CA.

**My career advisor is:**

# THINKING ABOUT BECOMING AN ELECTRICIAN ?

## Career Guide

## Electrician Trade School



WESTERN ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, Inc

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