



CAREER ADVISING FOR THE ELECTRICIAN & LOW VOLTAGE TECHNICIAN CAREER PATHS

Why Recommend The Electrician or Low Voltage Technician Career Path?

The electrician or low voltage technician career path can be a successful and rewarding choice. For those who enjoy working with their hands and have good spatial abilities, it may be a good fit.



Careers in the trades: A career as an electrician or low voltage technician is 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 soon be needed.

Electricians and Low Voltage Technicians 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 and low voltage technicians play an important role in their communities.

While the traditional college path may not be for everyone, advising the electrician or low voltage technician path to the right person can be a good option compared to other careers.

Call: 877-444-9322

How Does Someone Become a Skilled Electrician?

Those interested in pursuing the electrician career path must complete an **electrician trainee** program, or have entered and completed a formal **apprenticeship** program. In addition, they are then required to take the CA State electrician certification exam as required by law.

How Long Does it Take?

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 Does 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 \$1,513 per year--comparable to a year's tuition and fees at a CA Community College. Compare that to \$5,472-13,456 for in-state university tuition or \$30,131 annual tuition at a private college.

What is WECA?

Western Electrical Contractor's Association, Inc., is a statewide nonprofit organization serving merit shop electrical contractors, their employees and the industry. WECA offers federal and state-approved electrician education apprenticeship and training programs.

Click: www.goweca.com/careers/advisors.aspx

What is an Electrician?

What is a Low Voltage Technician?

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. They 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.

Low Voltage Technicians test, service, and maintain low voltage electronic and control systems equipment. Technicians are often divided into two categories: Voice Data Video technicians (or VDV techs), and Fire Life Safety technicians (or FLS techs). Voice Data Video technicians establish communications systems by installing, operating, and maintaining voice, data, and video telecommunications network circuits and equipment. Fire Life Safety technicians work on proprietary systems related to fire, life, and safety.

Electricians and Low Voltage Technicians 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 in 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 jobsite hazards. They must follow strict safety procedures like wearing eye protection, hard hats, and gloves.

Many electricians or low voltage technicians work for electrical contractors or own electrical contractor businesses themselves. **The median wage in 2018 for electricians in California is \$65,367 annually, or \$31.43 hourly.**

Source: <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/OccGuides/ALLOESWage.aspx?Soccode=472111> - 2018 wages do not reflect self-employment.

In 3-5 years a WECA graduate can become a skilled, state-certified electrician or low voltage technician making over \$65,000 per year with little to no student loan debt.

Visit a WECA training facility:



WECA Northern California Training Facility
WECA also has training facilities in Riverside and San Diego, CA.

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 Low Voltage (Voice-Data-Video and Fire-Life Safety, Sound and Communications Systems) Installer.**

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