



Welding Trainee Handbook

Spring 2026

SPRING 2026 SEMESTER SCHEDULE*

12-22 January New Welding Student Orientation
 26 January 1st Day for M/W & M/T Classes → Brief Returning Student Orientation
 27 January 1st Day for T/TH Classes → Brief Returning Student Orientation

16 - 17 February Campus Closed - Mardi Gras

16 - 19 March Campus Closed - Spring Break

6 April Registration for Fall 2026 opens
 18 June Graduation (tentatively) location TBD

Fall 2026 - Tentative start dates: (start dates may change)*

3-6 & 10-13 August Orientation for Non-welding crafts
 17 August First night for M/T or M/W classes
 18 August First night of T/TH classes

SPRING 2026 CLASS SCHEDULE & INSTRUCTORS

Class time each evening is 6:00-9:00pm with one 15-minute break at the end.

Instructor	Craft	Days
Weber & Company	Welding 100 & 250	M/W
Weber & Company	Welding 150	T/TH
Weber & Company	Welding 200, 300 & 350	M/T
Justin Dupre	Electrical 250	T/TH
Chris Boneno	Electrical 450	M/W
Justin Jacob	Electrical 2-year 100A	T/TH
Jacob Culver	Electrical 2-year 100B	M/W
Quinn Lovetro	Electrical 2-year 200	T/TH
Dave Smith	Industrial Electrical 300	M/W
Jacob Shields	Industrial Electrical 400	T/TH
Nick Musmeci	Instrumentation 100	T/TH
Khalid Alyounes	Instrumentation 200	M/W
John Retif	Instrumentation 300	T/TH

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

COURSE INSTRUCTION

Classes begin promptly at 6:00pm, and end at 8:45pm.

Course Curricula: The welding course curricula will consist of modified NCCER welding modules to include: 29102, 29109, and 12112 and the hands-on that accompany these modules. To pass Structural Plate, you must pass all three written and performance tests.

Transfer of NCCER Welding Credits: All NCCER written module credits that are registered with the NCCER Registry transfer for welding and trainees will not have to retake the written test. However, for the three Welding modules all new welders will repeat hands-on for 29102, 29109 and 29112.

Semester Completion: The semester calendar has been scheduled to meet ABC/NCCER requirements, and class sessions are to be conducted through the end of the planned time period. Semesters will not be concluded early without advanced approval by the Vice President of Workforce Development and will be based on 100% module completion.

Extra Welding Time: Welding 100 & 150 students will be allowed to purchase extra nights to weld in monthly increments:

- Monday nights for 1 month = \$200/month
- Wednesday nights for 1 month = \$200/month

*****Must be paid in full prior to beginning extra welding nights.** To purchase extra nights please contact the Workforce Development Office at 504.468.3188 or student@abcbayou.com to request to pay.

CLASS /COURSE CANCELLATION

ONLY the ABC New Orleans/Bayou Chapter President and/or Vice President of Workforce Development and/or Vice President of Campus Operations have the authority to cancel a scheduled class during the semester. Class cancellation will only take place due to inclement weather determined by one of the above persons, or if a substitute instructor cannot be confirmed to replace the regular class instructor.

In the event a class is cancelled, the Chapter office will notify the instructor(s) and all Trainees. If we are unable to get to our office to have access to student records, then we will update our website at www.abcbayou.com of campus closure.

Course Cancellation – ABC New Orleans/Bayou Chapter reserves the right to cancel/postpone any level course if there are not enough students to hold the course. All courses will be considered for cancellation/postponement if there are not greater than 5 students. No entry level course will be started with fewer than 15 students. If a course is cancelled, all registration fees and tuition will be refunded. If a class is postponed, refunds will be on a case-by-case basis.

TRAINEE ABSENCES & GRADES

Instructors will take daily attendance for each class session using the “Trainee Attendance Roster” form. Employers and/or sponsors will be notified at the end of each week of their “Trainees” attendance record.

Excessive absenteeism will result in dismissal from class. A Trainee can have **4 absences** each semester. Any amount of time over 4 absences, the Trainee will be dismissed from class and his/her employer will be notified of training termination.

A weekly attendance update will be provided to each instructor on the first night of their class each week. **ALL trainees are responsible for monitoring their time and reporting any discrepancies within a week of the disputed absence.**

Rain out days are NOT excused because rain out does not mean we are cancelling class.

REASONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:

- 1) **Long-Term Medical Leave:** If a trainee has a doctor diagnosed health problem that could lead to him/her missing extended amounts of time during a semester;
 - a. the trainee needs to notify the Office of Student Services of the potential of long term care
 - b. if it requires hospital stay, the student must provide authorized paperwork with the admission date, and release date clearly shown on hospital letterhead
 - c. each case will be reviewed individually
 - d. excused absences will NOT be granted for trips to Urgent Care, only long-term care with proper paperwork
- 2) **Birth of Child:** If your significant other is expecting a child during the semester, please do the following so we can excuse your absence:
 - a. Email us the due date so we know when to expect you to possibly miss
 - b. Send an email to student@abcbayou.com with intake/discharge papers or the bracelet the hospital puts on your child

****Please note: Trips to urgent care are NOT excused. They will be treated like a normal absence. The reason you have absences built in is for minor sickness and unavoidable delays in getting to school.**

Tardy/Leaving Early:

If a student is tardy to class or leaves early, the instructor will note the time the student arrived or left. This time will be docked in 15-minute increments, when in doubt, err on the side of more rather than less time used. (i.e arrive at 6:12 – 15 minutes, arrive at 6:25 – 30 minutes)

Once this amount of time is equal to 3 hours, they will be issued an absence. However, if you have 4 absences and 15 minutes for being tardy or leaving early, it is grounds for termination of training. If an instructor is not in the classroom at 6pm, the trainees should remain in place until the Vice President of Campus Operations or one of his appointed welding instructors comes to dismiss the class. Failure to do so will result in absence.

Leaving Campus Early:

If a student leaves class with the purpose of leaving the campus, or decides to leave campus, the student **MUST SIGN OUT** or let your instructor know you are leaving. If you do not let your instructor know you are leaving, you will be marked absent for the **ENTIRE** night.

MODULE TESTING

Trainees will be evaluated and graded based on the NCCER standardized construction and maintenance curricula. Closed-book module testing is required at the end of each module, and regular instructor-trainee progress and performance feedback is necessary throughout the semester.

Written testing guidelines and rules:

- All tests will be given online. ***Students must be in testing room at scheduled time of tests or will be locked out of testing room.***
- All books and notebooks should be cleared away before the tests are administered
→ **Absolutely No Open Book Tests** ←
- Trainees should be separated as much as possible in the classroom.
- All Smart devices are prohibited in the testing lab at all times. This includes phones, watches, glasses, etc. (See page 10, **Smart Devices**)
- A time limit and test rules will be stated in advance.
- Any Trainee caught cheating will receive 0% and cannot retake the test.
- Retesting → Make-up days for written tests will be set by the VP, Campus Operations in conjunction with the welding instructors. **(There will be NO extra retesting dates given going forward.)**

The Trainee must pass each written test with a minimum score of 70%.

WELDING LEVEL 100 COMPLETION:

In order to move from level 100/150 into level 200, ALL online module tests must be successfully passed with a 70% or higher. Even if you pass your performance (welding bend test), you will not change levels until you have passed your online tests.

MAKE-UPS FOR CLASSES & MODULE TESTING

Class → Due to the NCCER required hours for each craft level, Trainees are encouraged to attend all class sessions – there will be no make-up class sessions.

Testing → Make-up days for written tests will be set by the VP, Campus Operations in conjunction with the welding instructors.

PERFORMANCE TESTING

1. Performance testing is conducted throughout the semester during class time
2. The Trainee must successfully pass a bend test to pass the performance test and advance levels and should demonstrate the complete task in a safe manner
 - a. Welding 250 level trainees are **REQUIRED** to wear their safety harness at **ALL** times when welding restricted welds
 - b. TIG Welders – upon completion of TIG bend test, prior to moving to alloy, you are required to make a 6G position in a 4-Box testing with visual inspection
3. No other Trainee may assist
4. Retesting → If a Trainee does not pass a performance skills test:
 - a. 1st test – trainee allowed 1 recut and test the same night
 - b. 2nd and subsequent tests – trainee has a mandatory 3-week practice time/retraining time before retest will be given. Instructor to keep track of date of original test and when eligible for retest on the **Weld Test List** and provide feedback to the students via **Feedback sheet**

The instructor determines if a Trainee has successfully completed and passed a bend test. If any discrepancy, a photo of the bend test will be sent to a third party for verification.

REGISTRATION FOR RETURNING STUDENTS

REGISTRATION PERIOD:

- 1) *Open Registration* – designated in semester schedule, until the final night of class
- 2) *Late /Closed Registration* –Please note that if you are NOT registered by final night of class, you will have to come the first night of class to see if there is space for you in our classes. We WILL NOT accept current student registrations during Closed Registration period.
 - a. **IF you do not register until the first night of class, you will be assessed a \$250 late fee, and be considered absent until your application has been processed and you are on the roster**

RETURNING STUDENTS: Do not return your application through your jobsite. Follow directions as given, and your registration will be processed correctly and on time.

APPLICATION: As scheduled (see page 1) prior to the end of classes, returning students will receive:

- 1) *Application*; (If you are not using a payroll deduct, you will have to provide your most current pay stub as proof of employment with your company.)
- 2) *Payroll deduct form* (if your company uses one); and/or
- 3) *ABC invoice* with the amount each student owes per our records

PAYMENT: Acceptable payment should come in the form of: **(only full payments will be accepted unless a payment plan has been agreed upon, signed and submitted along with your application)**

- 1) *Invoicing company* (application must be accompanied by a payroll deduct form where used, or noted on top of application if your company does not use a payroll deduct form);
- 2) *Cash, Money Order or Cashier's Check*; or
- 3) *Credit/Debit Card* - NOTE: There will be convenience fee of 3.5% added to all Credit/Debit Card charges.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION, ADDITIONAL PAPERWORK, AND PAYMENT: All students must adhere to the registration process, do not give your application to your instructor or someone at work.

- 1) *Company pays, Cash, or Money Order/Cashier's Check* – put application, all documentation, and/or payment in an envelope with your name written on the outside and drop it in the drop box provided in either of the two lounge areas. (Instructors CAN NOT take applications! If you give your application to your instructor, it will be returned, and you run the risk of it getting lost in the shuffle.)
- 2) *Credit/Debit Cards* – taken during business hours only (see below for hours). Student is responsible for submitting their application in the drop box and calling with credit/debit card information to the front office for processing. Please note the convenience fee mentioned in the **PAYMENT** section.

ELIGIBILITY: A trainee who registers for the upcoming semester prior to the semester being completed, must remain in good academic and attendance standing to be eligible to attend. If the trainee quits or is dropped due to attendance violations before the semester ends, he/she will only be refunded the allowable tuition portion of the monies paid and have to sit out a semester before returning.

For trainees falling under the cents funding umbrella, those students who pay only registration and consumable fees, if you fail to complete a level in 2 semesters, you may return for a 3rd attempt, but the rate for the semester will be case by case depending on your company and their determination as to if they will allow it at the cents funding rate. Otherwise, it will be at the full member company rate for the semester.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Each spring semester a Commencement Ceremony will be planned. It is up to the graduating students to register themselves, and any/all guests for the event by or before the registration deadline. The Office of Students Services reserves the right to cancel the ceremony if not enough registrations are received.

The Commencement Ceremony is a special tribute to both Trainees and Instructors, and both groups are expected to dress appropriately for the occasion (*further explanation on this topic can be provided by the Vice President of Workforce Development*). [* Welding Trainees will receive certificates upon successful completion of all levels.]

SAFETY POLICY & PROCEDURES

Instructors and Trainees will practice and promote safety in the classroom, labs, and on the Training Campus grounds.

Safety is a priority in all ABC training. Only Safe Practices are to be demonstrated in class and any unsafe practices by Trainees will not be tolerated.

Safety Inspections: Periodic and unannounced safety inspections will occur. These may be done by instructors or outside third-party inspectors. All tools and their components as well as PPE's must be in safe and proper working condition. If something is deemed unsafe, you may be sent home for the night.

Good housekeeping is also an important component of Safe Practices. Safe Practices include daily organization & clean-up of tools, equipment, classrooms, labs, and grounds used for the purpose of instruction after every class session – this is a responsibility of both instructors and Trainees. Clean-up may consist of, but is not limited to, emptying trash and sweeping the floor.

Emergencies – Accident or Illness: In the event of an emergency, the policies and procedures of the facility where classes are held should be followed.

Emergency Course of Action:

1. Evacuate Trainees if necessary & call 911
2. A qualified person may provide First Aid &/or CPR if needed
3. Report the emergency to the Lead Instructor & Vice President of Campus Operations

Evacuation: Routes are posted in each classroom and shop, and they should be reviewed by Trainees and instructors. Periodic fire drills and emergency evacuation drills may occur each semester.

TRAINEE CONDUCT & CAMPUS POLICIES

Trainees are expected to be mature and responsible in their behavior while on Training Campus property. They are expected to attend all classes and to be punctual.

Trainees are expected to obey national, state, and local laws; respect the rights and privileges of others; be forthright and honest in all their social and academic conduct; and, in general, to conduct themselves in a manner which brings credit to themselves and to Associated Builders & Contractors.

ABC New Orleans/Bayou Chapter reserves the right to dismiss any Trainee whose behavior is considered undesirable or harmful to the institution. The administration may dismiss, or suspend, Trainees who have not upheld the social or academic standards of the Chapter, following the due process guidelines. Trainees who are dismissed or suspended for disciplinary or academic reasons may apply for readmission after a stated period of time set by the administration. ABC, at the discretion of the administration, may remove from classes any Trainee who is convicted of a felony, or who is felt to be a threat to the campus community (*Trainee body/faculty/staff*).

DRESS CODE:

Required PPEs:

- **Clear Safety Glasses**
- Ear Plugs – (Ear buds/headphones are NOT ear plugs)
- Standard Leather Welding Gloves
- Welding Hard Hat with flip action #10 dark lens

Required Welding Clothes:

- Outer Shirts: (your choice)
 - Flame Retardant Shirt
 - LAPCO Shirt with snap buttons (100% cotton)
 - Flame Retardant green cotton welding jacket
 - Full leather jacket
 - Leather cape, sleeve, and bib
 - Nomex Shirts or Jumpsuit
- Under Shirts:
 - **MUST be 100% cotton** – NO POLYESTER OR BLENDS ALLOWED
- Pants:
 - Blue Jeans without holes, strings hanging down, and stretch material added
 - Nomex Pants or Jumpsuits
 - FR Jeans/Pants
- Shoes:
 - **Must be leather shoes with steel toes** – NO rubber boots or tennis shoes

Non-compliance to PPE and Clothing Policy will result in dismissal from class the night of non-compliance with a mandatory absence given.

GRINDING IN BOOTH: Due to the large amount of metal fibers created when grinding which are causing damage to the welding machines, you are no longer allowed to perform heavy grinding in your booth. While in you are in your booth, you are only allowed to buff your weld and grind starts and stops. **ALL** root passes must be prepped on the patio.

If you do not adhere to this rule, your instructor has the authority to dismiss you from class for the night.

NO SMOKING/NO TOBACCO: Smoking, Electronic Cigarettes, and the use of smokeless tobacco is **NOT** permitted on campus property – Disciplinary action, including expulsion, will be taken for persons violating the No Smoking/No Tobacco policy. First offense, a written warning will be issued with a copy to be placed in Trainee's records. Second offense, Trainee suspended for two class periods. Third offense, Trainee will be expelled and employer will be notified of said expulsion.

CRIMINAL PROBATION: If a trainee is on probation that requires a probation officer, ankle bracelet, or other monitoring service, the trainee needs to alert the Office of Student Services by emailing student@abcbayou.com. If you are required to monitor your phone during class hours, we will need this information in writing from your probation officer, so that our office can confidentially alert your instructor. If you have taken care of all of your responsibilities on this point and have to take call or answer a text during class time, please step out of the class and into the hallway to take care of your business.

SMART DEVICES: Cell phones, earbuds (can not be used as ear plugs), smart glasses (META, etc) and smart watches are prohibited in classrooms and welding booths at all times (including break). If you bring your phone into class, it must be placed in the cell phone holder on the back of the door and remain there throughout the duration of the class. If you do not adhere to this rule, your instructor has the authority to dismiss you from class with an absence.

If you are on call at your place of employment, you **MUST** submit a letter on company letterhead from your supervisor, by the last night of the first week of class, stating this fact. If you abuse this privilege, your company will be notified and you will be dismissed from class.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: A student who is not prepared or ready/willing to participate in class can be sent home for the night

A student will be prepared for class by achieving the following:

1. ALL required and approved welding gear must be present during each lab session
2. Trainees must remain in their booth to ensure adequate instructor time

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL: No Trainee, employee, or guest may bring any alcoholic intoxicant or harmful/illegal drug onto the campus, or appear under the influence of such substances while on campus. ABC will not tolerate the use, possession, or sale of such substances on campus; instructors will be dismissed from ABC employment and Trainees will be expelled from the Training Campus program immediately if caught in violation of this rule. Employers and/or sponsors of Trainees violating this policy will be notified of the reason for expulsion. [Note: Should unopened or empty alcoholic beverage bottles or cans be in your automobile upon arrival to campus, please do not remove them for any reason (*including for the purpose of intended disposal*).] ***Be aware that beer infused with THC will show up on a drug screen. Even some cannabis products that are considered transdermal, meaning they have a carrier agent, have the ability to penetrate the skin and these can cause a failed drug screen.**

PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS: If a Trainee is on prescribed medication, the drugs must be in the original container with their name clearly indicated, and the prescription date must be within the same year as the consumption date.

If prohibitory caution is advised for use of the prescribed “medication while operating machinery” is indicated, the Trainee should not be attending class while on this medication, and the Vice President of Workforce Development or Vice President of Campus Operations should be notified of the reason for absence.

WEAPONS AND FIREARMS: Trainees, employees, or guests are not allowed to be in possession of any type of weapon, firearm, or ammunition, whether on their person or in their automobile, in any ABC facility or on the campus property (*including parking lot*). Any person found in use, transportation, sale, or possession of the aforementioned articles will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

FIGHTING: Fighting and/or rough horseplay are unacceptable behaviors at the workplace and in the classroom or shop, and will not be tolerated on the ABC campus. Any and all instructors and/or Trainees involved in fighting will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Employers and/or sponsors of Trainees violating this policy will be notified of the reason if expelled.

FOOD & BEVERAGE: Eating and/or drinking of non-banned substances is allowed on campus in the Lounge (located in the Welding Building), and in the classrooms. Clean up and disposal of all trash is required at the end of every class period. This policy will remain unchanged unless students leave trash, food, and messes in the classrooms. → Adherence to this policy helps eliminate rodents and insects in the training facilities. ***Personal food delivery service to campus is NOT allowed, i.e. Uber Eats, Door Dash, etc.**

INSTRUCTION TIME: Under no circumstances should instructors or students recruit and/or solicit Trainees for employment with the instructor's company, another student's company or membership into any organized group. Class time is a time for instruction and hands on practice and should follow the NCCER curriculum as written.

DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS: Recruitment, selection, and training of ABC trainees is without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, age, or physical handicap. Therefore, we train on a diverse campus, with people of ALL backgrounds and beliefs. All Instructors and Trainees are to treat each other with respect, regard, and in a manner that all would want to be treated. If a problem should arise, an instructor should be notified IMMEDIATELY to deal with the issue at hand. If the instructor is part of the issue, please contact the Vice President of Workforce Development to discuss the issue at hand and any possible resolutions.

If you do not feel the problem has been rectified, or that it needs more attention, please request a formal Grievance Form from student@abcbayou.com.

GRIEVANCE POLICY (OTHER): If you have a concern about grades, ABC New Orleans/Bayou Chapter or its Policy, your first course of action is an informal discussion with an instructor, or ABC Bayou Workforce Staff member. If you do not feel that your concern/grievance was resolved, please contact us at student@abcbayou.com to request a formal Grievance Form.

EMERGENCY LOCK-DOWN PROCEDURE

In case of an emergency on campus that requires the campus to be on lock-down, ABC New Orleans/Bayou Chapter has installed an emergency alarm system and inside door deadbolts for the safety of our students and instructors. If there is an instance where the alarm has to be sounded, ALL instructors will be equipped with a portable remote alarm, and specified instructors will call 911 once the alarm has sounded.

If an alarm is sounded, 911 will be called and the sequence of response is as follows:

- 1) All students and instructors must remain in their welding shop
- 2) The inside door lock needs to be engaged on all doors to the interior hallway
- 3) All students and instructors will remain in the locked welding shop until a policeman, or the Vice President of Campus Operations has visited your class to sound the all clear (alarm will remain active until campus has been cleared of any threats)

NOTE: Any student that falsely claims an alarm, or pushes the instructors remote alarm will be immediately terminated from classes and will face criminal charges for their actions.

Safety and Campus Policing:

For added safety and campus policing, once a student has entered the classroom/welding space, they will not be allowed to return to their vehicle except for the express purpose of leaving the premises. Please make sure you have all necessary books and materials that you need for class before entering the building. If you are caught in your car, you will be sent home for the remainder of the night.

TRAINEE SERVICES

The Workforce Development staff support and augment the philosophy, purpose, and goals of the ABC New Orleans/Bayou Chapter Construction Training Center. In its concern for the individual Trainee and his/her progress toward educational and occupational goals, the Chapter will provide a comprehensive program of services and activities to assist each Trainee in making full use of the total educational program available to them.

TRAINEE REQUESTS

When a student needs to request information concerning their training, general information, or requesting a transcript, they need to do so through the email student@abcbayou.com. When requesting information, please include a date you need the information and allow for sufficient time to process the request, they will be processed in one to two class periods.

TRAINEE INFORMATION UPDATE

If a Trainee has a change of address, email, or phone number, they need to submit that change to our office as soon as possible. Changes can be emailed to student@abcbayou.com.

If a trainee has a job change, they need to alert the Workforce Development Department as soon as possible at 504-468-3188. If the change requires verification of employment, the Workforce Department will let you know what to submit.

TUITION REFUND POLICY

Tuition refunds are computed according to the date the trainee drops the course. Tuition refunds must be requested in writing by the trainee or the trainee company using the **Tuition Refund Request Form**. To request a Tuition Refund Request Form, please email us at student@abcbayou.com, or at the office during regular work hours.

Non-tuition fees (registration fees, book fees, and consumable fees) are **non-refundable** unless the course is cancelled by ABC New Orleans/Bayou Chapter.

Tuition will be reimbursed on the following schedule:

Refund Schedule:	Tuition Refund	Tuition Obligation
Dropping course before the official first date of class	100%	-
Dropping course within six calendar days after the scheduled opening date	75%	25%
Dropping course between the 7th & 12th calendar days after the scheduled opening date	50%	50%
Dropping course between the 13th and 17th calendar days after the scheduled opening date	25%	75%
Dropping course(s) beyond the 17th calendar day after the scheduled opening date	0%	100%

ABC NEW ORLEANS/BAYOU CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office phone – 504.468.3188 (Hours of operation: M-TH 8 to 5, F 8 -4:30)

ABC New Orleans/Bayou Chapter Website:
www.abcbayou.com

Vice President, Campus Operations:
 Chris Weber

Vice President, Workforce Development:
 Claire Obgartel

Workforce Development Coordinator:
 Heather Trimmier

Workforce Development Contact email:
student@abcbayou.com

***All dates in the handbook are subject to change if a need arises. Please be advised that we will email you with any changes, so always defer to the most current date for information.**