Southwest Louisiana WORKFORCE Resource Guide
A step-by-step guide to prepare you for a job in support of area industry

Begin
Learn
Gain
Succeed!

www.SWLAresourceguide.com
Updated July 2014
Southwest Louisiana WORKFORCE Resource Guide
A step-by-step guide to prepare you for a job in support of area industry

www.SWLAreresourceguide.com

In collaboration with:

Sponsored by:
Southwest Louisiana WORKFORCE Resource Guide
A step-by-step guide to prepare you for a job in support of area industry

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STEP 1: Get your high school diploma .......................................................................................... 9
STEP 2: Make sure you have basic life skills .............................................................................. 13
STEP 3: Select a craft, skill or profession ...................................................................................... 17
STEP 4: Get the certification or associate degree ......................................................................... 25
STEP 5: Build a resumé & sharpen your interview skills ............................................................. 29
STEP 6: Apply for the job ............................................................................................................. 33

Interested in getting trained on skills not directly associated with industry? ....................... 36
I have made mistakes in the past & have a criminal record. How can I still get a job? ....... 37

APPENDIX A: Contact information for entities listed in the Resource Guide ................. 39
APPENDIX B: Craft training programs & current record of costs ............................................. 43
APPENDIX C: Guidance on preparing a resume .......................................................................... 53
APPENDIX D: 2013 Southwest Louisiana plant pre-application ............................................. 61
APPENDIX E: What is the process for obtaining a TWIC? ...................................................... 63
APPENDIX F: Scholarships & Support Services ........................................................................ 71
APPENDIX G: Location maps ...................................................................................................... 75
IMPORTANT

You will notice several data sets, facts and figures throughout this document, please note that these figures were compiled in Fall 2014 and are subject to change. Please refer to Appendix A of this Resource Guide to confirm the accuracy of these numbers with our listed service providers.
NEW JOBS are coming to *Southwest Louisiana*, and it is important that residents who want to work and get promoted in today’s workforce get the required training and credentials NOW.

This *Southwest Louisiana WORKFORCE Resource Guide* includes step-by-step instructions for job seekers wanting a well-paying job to support our fast growing industries. It includes step-by-step instructions to help job seekers get from point A to point B and provides contact information and guidance on where to go, who to call and what to say. Some positions are for the industrial manufacturing facilities and some of them are for the contracting companies that provide construction and maintenance support to the facilities.

Our community’s service sector will also experience a workforce demand increase. For those who are seeking work in the service level industry, steps one and two of this Resource Guide may be followed. Additionally, the Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center can assist you in connecting with employers who are hiring in the service sector.

Let’s get started!
**STEP 1: Get your high school diploma**

Nearly all industry or skilled jobs require a high school diploma. If you haven’t finished high school, you need to pass the state-administered high school equivalency exam. This section of the Resource Guide tells you what this exam involves, who can take it, how to prepare and where to take it. This section also includes local resources for adult literacy programs.

**STEP 2: Make sure you have basic life skills**

Getting to work on time, dressing for the workplace and knowing how to act around your co-workers, supervisors and managers are just some of the basic skills that will not only assist you in getting a job, but more importantly help you keep your job. This section of the Resource Guide includes a list of organizations and resources in the Southwest Louisiana community where you can go to sharpen these skills.

**STEP 3: Select a craft, skill or profession**

To get a job with industry, you must have a craft, skill or profession. This section of the Resource Guide focuses on helping you choose a craft or skill. It includes detailed information on each craft or skill listed in the guide, from the types of skills you need for each job, what you can expect to do and where you can expect to work as a carpenter, industrial electrician, etc., and the average hourly wages and annual salaries for each.
STEP 4: Get the certification or associate degree for your craft or skill

Now that you have chosen your craft or skill, you must acquire the proper certification or training. All of the jobs listed in the Resource Guide require some type of formal training, certification or associate degree. This section includes information about training centers in Southwest Louisiana that offer certifications and associate degrees in these areas as well as contact information for individuals who can assist you.

This section also includes information on acquiring industry-required credentials, such as the Safety Council of SWLA’s basic safety orientation and training, a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) and contact information for these resources.

STEP 5: Build a resumé and sharpen your interview skills

One of the most important and intimidating steps in the job search process is writing a good resumé that gets the attention you want and need from a potential employer. Whether you are handing a resumé over in person or emailing an electronic copy, the words you use and the formatting you choose will make a big difference in whether or not you get that interview.

Interview skills are also very important. Some ideas for improving your skills include, research the company before the interview, think of potential questions and answers, practice with a friend beforehand and write a thank you note after the interview. This section of the Resource Guide identifies organizations in the community that offer these preparation courses.
STEP 6: Apply for the job
Once you have mastered steps one through five, it’s time to apply for the job! The Calcasieu Parish Business and Career Solutions Center offers a range of useful career and employment services and can help you apply for available industry jobs in Southwest Louisiana. This section of the Resource Guide provides contact information for this center, a sample application and other resources.
STEP 1: Get your high school diploma

Nearly all industry or skilled jobs require a high school diploma. If you haven’t finished high school, you need to pass the state-administered high school equivalency exam. This section of the resource guide tells you what this exam involves, who can take it, how to prepare and where to take it. This section also includes local resources for adult literacy programs.
STEP 1: Get your high school diploma

Nearly all industry or skilled jobs require a high school diploma. If you haven’t finished high school, you need to pass the state-administered high school equivalency exam. This section of the resource guide tells you what this exam involves, who can take it, how to prepare and where to take it. This section also includes local resources for adult literacy programs.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) measure?
The HiSET exam measures the academic knowledge and proficiency equivalent to those of a high school graduate. It covers five content areas:

1. Language Arts – Reading
2. Language Arts – Writing
3. Mathematics
4. Social Studies
5. Science

How much does it cost to take the HiSET exam in Louisiana?

- **Battery (all five subtests):**
  You must pay a total fee of $90 ($50 ETS* exam battery fee, $30 test center fee and $10 state administration fee).

- **NOTE FOR BATTERY PURCHASERS:**
  When you purchase all five subtests at one time in a battery, the purchase expires after 12 months. Because of this, we recommend waiting until as close to January as you feel comfortable to make your purchase. This will allow you to take full advantage of your battery and maximize the amount of time you have to take the exam and retake subtests.

- **Individual Subtest:**
  If you only need to take an individual subtest initially, the total price is $21 per test ($15 ETS fee and $6 test center fee). If you must retake an individual subtest, you must pay a total fee of $21 per retest ($15 ETS fee and $6 test center fee).

Where is the Calcasieu Parish Testing Center?
Call the Literacy Council of Southwest Louisiana for information on a testing center near you.

- See contact information in Appendix A

*ETS is the non-profit organization that developed, administers and scores the HiSET.
Eligibility Requirements
Individuals who are at least 19 years of age or older are eligible to take the test without enrolling in Adult Education or passing a qualifying test.

Individuals who are 16 to 18 years old must:
- Provide documentation of withdrawal from K12 system;
- Enroll in Literacy Provider classes or classes authorized by a WorkReady University (in the Lake Charles region, this provider is the Literacy Council of SWLA, see contact information in Appendix A); and
- Pass the Official High School Equivalency Practice Test.

Individuals who are 16 and 17 years of age must meet the above criteria plus at least one of the criteria below:
- Pregnant or parenting;
- Incarcerated or adjudicated;
- Institutionalized or living in a residential facility;
- Have chronic physical or mental illness; or
- Family or economic hardship.

Individuals 15 years or younger are not allowed to take the high school equivalency test or enroll in classes at a WorkReady U Literacy Provider.

Can I take the HiSET exam on paper or computer?
The HiSET exam is available in both computer- and paper-delivered formats in Louisiana. However, both formats are not available at every test center. Make sure you verify that the format you prefer is available at your selected test center before scheduling your testing appointment.

How do I schedule a testing appointment?
Contact the Literacy Council of Southwest Louisiana.
- See contact information in Appendix A
STEP 2: Make sure you have basic life skills

Getting to work on time, dressing for the workplace and knowing how to act around your co-workers, supervisors and managers are just some of the basic skills that will not only assist you in getting a job, but more importantly help you keep your job. This section of the Resource Guide includes a list of organizations and resources in the Southwest Louisiana community where you can go to sharpen these skills.
STEP 2: Make sure you have basic life skills

STEP BY STEP

✔ Step 1: Take a life skills course

Contact the Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center, the Interview for Life program or any number of programs offered at local churches and non-profit organizations to sign up for a life skills course available near you.

• Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center
  The Center is a partnership of local community organizations and employers providing a comprehensive range of useful career and employment services, job training and up-to-date information, which will empower individuals to become self-sufficient and improve their overall quality of life. The center also knows of other programs in the area.
  
  - See contact information in Appendix A

• Interview for Life: Career and Life Coaching/Interview Preparation
  United Way Community Partner
  Are you ready for the interview of your life? If your future depended on one interview, are you ready? And how would you prepare yourself? The Interview for Life program offers career and life skills training focused on preparing people for working in a professional environment. The curriculum is designed to boost confidence, help set personal and career goals, introduce the interview process and prepare students for professionalism in the business world.

  - See contact information in Appendix A
Step 2: Take a basic computer course

Most jobs listed in this Resource Guide will require some basic computer skills either through the application process or in day-to-day work.

- **Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center**
  The Center offers a basic computer course. Call the Center to learn more about class schedules.
  - See contact information in Appendix A

- **Calcasieu Parish Public Library**
  The library offers basic to intermediate computer classes every month. Classes are free and generally last two hours.
  - See contact information in Appendix A

- **Literacy Council of Southwest Louisiana**
  The basic computer course includes computer terminology and computer basics, such as handling the mouse, starting and exiting programs, operating systems, simple computer functions and basic Microsoft Word concepts and skills. Self-directed computer instruction is also available.
  - See contact information in Appendix A; call them to learn more about class times and schedules.

**IMPORTANT!**
In order to be considered for most jobs with industry, you must be willing to take a drug test and once hired, wear protective safety equipment, which would require the removal of excess facial hair and piercings.
STEP 3: Select a craft, skill or profession

To get a job with industry, you must have a craft, skill or profession. This section of the Resource Guide focuses on helping you choose a craft or skill. It includes detailed information on each craft or skill listed in the guide, from the types of skills you need for each job, what you can expect to do and where you can expect to work as a carpenter, industrial electrician, etc., and the average hourly wages and annual salaries for each.
STEP 3: Select a craft, skill or profession

Below is a partial list of crafts and skills needed throughout industry along with descriptions and estimated average hourly and annual wages for each. Review this list and see which craft or skill most interests you! Once you choose a craft or skill, the next section of the Resource Guide will provide information on how to gain the certification or degree required.

NOTE: The hourly and annual wages listed below are estimates generated from the Louisiana Workforce Commission 2012 Occupational Employment and Wages data for the Lake Charles Regional Labor Market, the Calcasieu Business and Career Solution Center, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and other industry sources.

Carpenter
Do you like building, traveling and being outdoors? Commercial and industrial carpenters construct, erect, install, and repair structures and fixtures. These carpenters are involved in many different kinds of construction, from buildings to highways and bridges to power plants. Carpenters need manual dexterity, good eye-hand coordination, physical fitness and a good sense of balance. Carpenters can also learn their craft by starting as a helper and learning more skills on the job.

Average wage range: $16 -$21; Average annual salary: $34,000

Chemical Plant/System Operator/Process Technician
In addition to having a broad understanding of chemical processes, the chemical operator of today must possess advanced knowledge of mechanical and electrical processes, and have a solid background in math, science and computer skills. He or she must also be team oriented and able to communicate effectively with all levels of plant management. These operators and technicians often work overtime and shift work.

Average wage range: $9 -$35; Average annual salary: $45,000-$70,000

Commercial Truck Driver
Do you like traveling and being on the open road? Are you okay with being away from home for extended periods of time? Employment for heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers is projected to grow 21 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. As the economy grows, the demand for goods will increase, and more truck drivers will be needed to keep supply chains moving. Most tractor-trailer drivers are long-haul drivers and operate trucks with a capacity of at least 26,001 pounds per gross vehicle weight (GVW). They deliver goods over intercity routes, sometimes spanning several states. Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers usually have a high school diploma and two years of related work experience. They must have a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL).

Average wage range: $14 -$22; Average annual salary $30,000
Concrete Finisher
Do you like working with your hands and being part of the construction process? Overall employment of cement masons is projected to grow 34 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. A concrete finisher, also known as a cement mason, is a tradesman who works with concrete. The job entails placing, finishing, protecting and repairing concrete in engineering and construction projects. Concrete work is fast paced and strenuous and often involves kneeling, bending, and reaching. Because many jobs are outdoors, work generally stops in wet weather. Although most cement masons learn informally on the job, some learn their trade through a formal apprenticeship. There is a concrete finisher NCCER certification offered. 
Average wage range: $14-$21; Average annual salary: $27,000

Drafting and Design Technology
Are you creative? A forward thinker? Drafters use software to convert the designs of engineers and architects into technical drawings and plans. Workers in production and construction use these plans to build everything from microchips to skyscrapers. Like other workers who primarily use computers to do their work, drafters usually work indoors and full time, although overtime is not uncommon. Developments in new technology are causing entry-level requirements to rise. An associate degree is the typical level of education needed to enter the occupation. In addition, drafters need skills from academic programs so that they may move into the work of designing directly for professionals such as engineers or architects. 
Average wage range: $17-$25; Average annual salary: $44,000

HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning) Technician
Are you interested in model building or do you like fixing things? HVAC technicians are always piercing things together as they install, maintain and repair heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems that control temperature, humidity and total air quality in industrial buildings. An HVAC technician might also handle large cooling systems and chillers that regulate the temperature of chemicals in the manufacturing process. HVAC technicians need to know about basic electronics, wiring, and the proper installation and operation of HVAC systems. 
Average wage range: $20-$21; Average annual salary: $42,000
Industrial Electrician
Do you like the flexibility of working both indoors and outdoors? Electricians work indoors and out, in nearly every type of facility. Almost all electricians work full time, which may include evenings and weekends. Industrial electricians install, troubleshoot and repair wiring, electrical equipment and other electrical devices used in the industrial environment, such as motors (AC and DC drives), transformers, control systems, industrial instruments, programmable logic controllers and lighting systems. Areas of study also include all applicable codes and standards, blueprint reading and wiring diagram interpretations. Most industrial electricians have an associate degree or a certification. Most states require licensure. Employment of electricians is projected to grow 23 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. Overtime and shift work is also typical in this profession.

Average wage range: $20 -$28; Average annual salary: $43,000

Instrumentation Technician
Are you a problem solver with a knack for small details? Instrumentation may be the perfect craft profession for you. Instrument fitters and technicians perform key installation and maintenance functions across several industries and are trained in piping, tubing, fasteners and metallurgy. Instrumentation technicians and fitters have to be familiar with electrical systems, craft-specific drawings, and must be experts in the hand and power tools specific to their trade. Individuals must have manual dexterity, hand-eye coordination, physical fitness and a good sense of balance. Instrumentation technicians also need to have the ability to solve complex problems using reasoning and advanced math. Advancements in industrial technology has meant more certifications and training needed in today’s industries. Also, there are NCCER certifications and associate degrees offered in our area for instrumentation technicians. Overtime and shift work is also typical in this profession.

Average hourly wage: $18 - 26; Average annual salary: $46,000

Insulator
Insulation workers install and replace the materials used to insulate buildings and their mechanical systems to help control and maintain temperature. Insulators typically work in residential and industrial settings. They spend most of the workday standing, bending or kneeling, often in confined spaces. Most floor, ceiling and wall insulation workers learn their trade informally on the job. Most mechanical insulators complete a formal apprenticeship program. There is an industrial insulation NCCER certification offered in Louisiana.

Average wage range: $10 -$16 ; Average annual salary: $28,000
Machinist
Machinists and tool and die makers set up and operate a variety of computer-controlled or mechanically-controlled machine tools to produce precision metal parts, instruments and tools. Machinists often train in apprenticeship programs, vocational schools, community and technical colleges or informally on the job. Good math, problem-solving and computer skills are important. Associate degrees are offered in this area. Overtime and shift work is also typical in this profession.
Average wage range: $22 - $35; Average annual salary: $39,000

Millwright
The demand for well-trained millwrights has never been greater. If you are mechanically inclined, enjoy the challenge of working in a fast-paced industrial environment and are an excellent problem solver, consider becoming a millwright. Millwrights install, dismantle, repair, reassemble and move machinery in factories, power plants and construction sites. Associate degrees are offered in this area. Overtime and shift work is also typical in this profession.
Average wage range: $25 - $30; Average annual salary: $58,000

Mobile Crane Operator/Heavy Equipment Operator
Don’t you wish your entire career could involve a screen and a joystick? Mobile crane operators use state-of-the-art heavy machinery to move massive materials. A series of joysticks, levers and pedals allow the operator to use his or her knowledge of load calculations to place materials around a construction site. If you have a good sense of balance, ability to judge distance, eye-hand-foot coordination and are comfortable with technology and basic math skills, consider becoming a mobile crane or heavy equipment operator. There is a mobile crane operator/heavy equipment operator NCCER certification offered.
Average wage range: $14-$25; Average annual salary: $37,000

Pipefitter/Fabricator
Are you a little bit of a perfectionist? Do you enjoy reading blueprints and making something useful? Consider training to become a pipefitter. Pipefitters/fabricators plan and install detailed pipe systems for commercial and industrial projects. These pipes may carry water, chemicals or gases to the crucial building systems. Pipefitters/fabricators use many tools to cut and bend pipes to exact specifications. The ability to solve complex problems using reasoning and advanced math is important. Pipefitters/fabricators should also be familiar with general mechanics and how various materials fit together. Most learn through formal apprenticeships. Overtime and shift work is also typical in this profession. There is a pipefitter/fabricator NCCER certification offered.
Average wage range: $21-$25; Average annual salary $43,000
Plumber
Are you always tinkering with objects? Do people ask for your help with fixing mechanical things? Consider plumbing. Plumbers do much more than fix sinks and toilets in residential homes. They design and install piping systems that distribute water and remove waste from buildings and connect to washers, sinks, heating and cooling systems. Plumbers have to be knowledgeable in water distribution, blueprint reading, local ordinances and regulations, mathematics, mechanical drawing, physics, welding and soldering. Most learn through formal apprenticeships.
Average wage range: $21-$25; Average annual salary $43,000

Scaffold Builder
Employment of construction laborers and helpers, such as scaffold builders, is expected to grow 25 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. Scaffold builders position and dismantle wooden structures, such as concrete forms, scaffolds, tunnel and sewer supports and build temporary frame shelters, according to sketches, blueprints or company standards. They are able to work within precise limits or standards of accuracy, make decisions based on measurable criteria, apply basic mathematics and solve problems. They can plan work and select proper tools, compare and see differences in the size, shape and form of lines, figures and objects. Lastly, they can work at heights without fear. There is a scaffolding NCCER certification offered.
Average wage range: $10-$15; Average annual salary: $28,000

Welder
Do you love playing with a little bit of fire? Welders join objects together by applying heat or pressure. Skilled welders have a thorough knowledge of welding principles and metals. They use blueprints and drawings to build anything from ships to cars to bridges. Welders are also crucial in maintaining power plants of all types and have the opportunity to travel throughout the year. Some welding positions require general certifications, or certifications in specific skills such as inspection or robotic welding. It has become mandatory to have the American Welding Society (AWS) certification. Note: Color-blindness may prohibit your ability to weld in some jobs or circumstances.
Average wage range: $17-$26; Average annual salary: $44,000
STEP 4: Get the certification or associate degree for your craft or skill

Now that you have chosen your craft or skill, you must acquire the proper certification or training. All of the jobs listed in the Resource Guide require some type of formal training, certification or associate degree. This section includes information about training centers in Southwest Louisiana that offer certifications and associate degrees in these areas as well as contact information for individuals who can assist you.

This section also includes information on acquiring industry-required credentials, such as the Safety Council of SWLA’s basic safety orientation and training, a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) and contact information for these resources.
**STEP BY STEP**

✔ **Step 1: Choose a craft from the list below**

Record which training center offers your chosen craft (see chart below). Contact information and information regarding costs for training in these areas can be found in Appendices A&B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Craft Training Programs</th>
<th>Offered</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Level 5</th>
<th>Assoc. Deg./Diploma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carpentry</td>
<td>A, S</td>
<td>A, S</td>
<td>A, S</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete Finishing</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical</td>
<td>A, S, MS</td>
<td>A, S, MS</td>
<td>A, S, MS</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy Equipment Operations</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVAC</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumentation</td>
<td>A, S</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insulating</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinist</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millwright</td>
<td>A, S</td>
<td>A, S</td>
<td>A, S</td>
<td>A, S</td>
<td>A, S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Crane Operations</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipefitting</td>
<td>A, S, MS</td>
<td>A, S, MS</td>
<td>A, S, MS</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbing</td>
<td>P</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scaffolding</td>
<td>A, S</td>
<td>A, S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welding</td>
<td>A, S, MS</td>
<td>A, S, MS</td>
<td>A, S, MS</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A = ABC, S = SOWELA, L = Lamar Salter Campus (Leesville), MS = Morgan Smith Campus (Jennings), P = Apprenticeship Programs

**Training programs range from a few hours to 2-3 years. Do not wait until the last minute ... get trained now!**
Step 2: Take a basic industrial worker safety course

The Safety Council of Southwest Louisiana offers a general industrial craft safety course. It is a good certification to have, and in most cases, it is required by employers. It is called the Basic Plus Orientation and it is a 5.5-hour course.

- See contact information and information regarding costs for this training in Appendices A & B.
- NOTE: Many employers require employees to purchase their own personal protection equipment (PPE), such as steel toe boots, flame-resistant clothing, hard hat, etc. Information on where you can purchase these materials will be provided upon hire.

Step 3: Get a national certification for your craft, if it is offered

There are a number of national certifications recognized by area industry and construction contractors. Some of the most notable include:

- American Welding Society (AWS)
- National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)
- National Institute for Certification of Engineering Technologies (NICET)
- American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT)
- National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO)

Southwest Louisiana industry employers and contractors rely heavily on these national certifications to ensure qualified employees are hired.

- Go to Appendix A for training center contact information. Call them for class schedules and times.
- See Appendix B for more information on craft training.

After being certified, you must be willing to enter the workforce as a helper or laborer to get plant experience.
Step 4: Register for a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)

The Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) is a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration and U.S. Coast Guard initiative.

The TWIC program provides a tamper-resistant biometric credential to maritime workers requiring unescorted access to secure areas of port facilities, outer continental shelf facilities and vessels regulated under the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) and all U.S. Coast Guard credentialed merchant mariners.

NOTE: TWIC cards are not necessary for employment at all companies. The location and company requirements will determine whether or not you will need a TWIC card.

- See contact information for the Center in Appendix A
- Go to Appendix E to review the enrollment process as well as a detailed list of necessary documentation.
STEP 5: Build a resumé and sharpen your interview skills

One of the most important and intimidating steps in the job search process is writing a good resumé that gets the attention you want and need from a potential employer. Whether you are handing a resumé over in person or emailing an electronic copy, the words you use and the formatting you choose will make a big difference in whether or not you get that interview.

Interview skills are also very important. Some ideas for improving your skills include, research the company before the interview, think of potential questions and answers, practice with a friend beforehand and write a thank you note after the interview. This section of the Resource Guide identifies organizations in the community that offer these preparation courses.
STEP BY STEP

✔ Step 1: Develop a résumé and acquire job interview skills.

• **Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center**
  The Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center provides assistance in résumé creation and interview skills.
  
  - See contact information in Appendix A

• **Calcasieu Parish Public Library System**
  The Calcasieu Parish Public Library System offers three online, self-guided programs for résumé building, interview skills and language improvement. The programs are free of charge and are available online at [www.calcasieulibrary.org](http://www.calcasieulibrary.org). If you don’t have access to a computer, visit your local library and use one of their available computers. Additionally, the Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center has a computer lab available for use.

  - See contact information in Appendix A

1. **The Cypress Resumé Program**
   
   ➢ In three quick and easy steps, you can create a résumé with the library’s Cypress Resumé program. Visit any of the library branch locations listed in Appendix A for help. Additionally, did you know your library has computers that you can use or borrow? The laptops, housed at the Central Library and the Sulphur Regional Library are provided to Calcasieu Parish by the state for these purposes. The library also offers the basic computer skills classes free of charge.
2. The Learning Express Program
   - Offers many test preparation tools, such as how to use Microsoft Word, how to write a resumé, etc.; more than 770 online practice tests and interactive skills-building tutorials.

3. The Mango Languages Program
   - A language learning system that provides tutorials for 18 different languages. This program is great for anyone looking to improve his or her language and conversation skills. It is also available on calcasieulibrary.org.

• Louisiana Workforce Commission
  The Louisiana Workforce Commission has developed guidance documents on preparing a resumé, sample resumés and job interview tips. These documents can be found in Appendix C of this Resource Guide.
Southwest Louisiana WORKFORCE Resource Guide
A step-by-step guide to prepare you for a job in support of area industry
STEP 6: Apply for the job

Once you have mastered steps one through five, it’s time to apply for the job! The Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center offers a range of useful career and employment services and can help you apply for available industry jobs in Southwest Louisiana. This section of the Resource Guide provides contact information for this center, a sample application and other resources.
STEP BY STEP

✔ Step 1: Contact the Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center to help jumpstart your career

*Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center*

The Center is a state-sponsored partnership of local community organizations and employers providing a comprehensive range of useful career and employment services, job training, and up-to-date information, which will empower individuals to become self-sufficient and improve their overall quality of life.

The Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center will ask you to fill out a plant pre-application via an online website first. The Center recruitment team will use the information gathered from this application to get you an interview with one of our area employers. *NOTE: At the company interview, you will have to fill out an additional company-specific application.*

- See Appendix D for a sample application.

*Services available at our centers include:*

- Applicant screening and job matching services
- Foreign language/interpretation services
- An online assessment that will provide an individualized report of occupational interests, aptitudes, basic skill levels
- WorkKeys that will assess reading for information, applied mathematics, locating information and applied technology
- The public may attend Job Readiness Workshops that explains the level of work and commitment that employers expect from employees, such as transferrable skills, resumés, electronic applications, interviewing, etc.
- Resource materials on labor market information, interviewing and employee evaluations, Americans with Disabilities Act, hiring practices, job descriptions, time management and supervision/managing employees are also available in the Skills Development Lab and Employer Services Room
- Services for veterans are also offered

The Calcasieu Business & Career Solutions Center is your one-stop-shop to getting a job in Southwest Louisiana.
Services to eligible youth (age 16-21) include:

- Tutoring and study skills training and instruction leading to high school completion, including dropout prevention strategies
- Alternative secondary school offerings
- Summer employment opportunities directly linked to academic and occupational learning
- Paid and unpaid work experience including internships and job shadowing
- Occupational skill training (craft training, truck driving, LPN, RN, etc.)
- Leadership development opportunities, which include community services and peer-centered activities encouraging responsibility and other positive social behaviors
- Supportive services (child care, transportation, etc.)
- Adult mentoring for a duration of at least 12 months which may occur during and after program participation
- Comprehensive guidance and counseling including drug and alcohol abuse counseling, as well as referrals to counseling as appropriate to the needs of the individual youth
- Follow-up activities for no less than 12 months after completion of participation

NOTE: Individuals may be responsible for purchasing some personal protective equipment and other workforce items. However, there are support services available to help cover these costs. See Appendix F.
Interested in getting trained on skills not directly associated with industry?
For adults who want to focus on work readiness, job training or post-secondary education, the Literacy Council partners with SOWELA Technical Community College to provide dual enrollment and transition assistance. Currently, the Literacy Council and SOWELA are recruiting for three dual enrollment programs:

- **Program 1: Adult Basic Education to College** This program is for adults who are enrolled in the adult education program and want to transition into a college program of their choice. Participants take a college orientation course, a technology course, language arts and mathematics.

- **Program 2: Intro to Auto Tech** This program is designed for adults who are interested in future careers in the Automotive Technology field. Participants earn 10 credit hours from courses focuses on college preparedness, safety, brakes and engine performance.

- **Program 3: Allied Health** This program focuses on acquisition of the nurse assistant credential and preparation for college entrance. Participants who successfully complete the program earn up to five credit hours that may be transferred to the practical nursing program. A strong emphasis is placed on reading, writing and mathematics.

**Program Contact Info**
DeRidder; Phone: (337) 348-4712
Grand Lake; Phone: (337) 598-5334
Jennings; Phone: (337) 616-9918
Lake Charles; Phone: (337) 494-7000

Please submit general inquiries via email to info@literacyswla.org or call 1-888-LIT-SWLA.

Stay positive.
Many people have to apply multiple times before being hired.
I have made mistakes in the past and have a criminal record. How can I still get a job?

It is important to recognize that you will initially face challenges and limitations as you will be competing with other individuals with a solid work history.

✔ **Step 1: Begin building a solid work history.**

Whether the initial job is employment in the service industry or the construction industry, the job should be one paying social security taxes and income taxes and NOT a cash-based job.

✔ **Step 2: Call the Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center for assistance.**

The Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center has a staff member that assists individuals with criminal backgrounds as they work to reenter the workforce. Individuals attend a job readiness workshop every Tuesday. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact the individual below for more information.

Contact: Gwen Guillory  
Phone: (337) 721-4010 ext. 5009  
Email: gguillory@lwia51.com

- See contact information in Appendix A

This is the first step in your journey toward succeeding in today’s workforce. Get started today!
APPENDIX A:

Contact information for entities listed in the Resource Guide
NOTE: Contacts listed below were compiled in October 2013. It is likely that phone numbers and email addresses listed in this Resource Guide will change over time. Should you have any trouble reaching any of the contacts listed, dial 2-1-1 and an information and referral specialist will provide the appropriate information about the respective organization. In addition, the most up-to-date version of the SWLA Resource Guide is available at www.swlaresourceguide.com and www.allianceswla.org.

Apprenticeship Program Contacts
Contact: Richard Paulk
Plumbers Local 106 Apprenticeship Director
Phone: (337) 436-2444
Email: local106jac@bellsouth.net
Contact: Carlos Perez
Lake Charles JATC Coordinator
Phone: (337) 433-7277

Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC)
Pelican Southwest Chapter
Contact: Kirby Bruchhaus
Southwest Area Director
Address: 222 Walcot Road
Westlake, LA 70669
Phone: (337) 882-0204
Email: kbruchhaus@abcpelican.org
Website: www.abcpelican.com
See location map in Appendix G

Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center
Contact: Mary Conway
Address: 2424 3rd Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Phone: (337) 721-4010 ext.5026
Email: mconway@lwia51.com
Fax: (337) 721-4186
Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8am-5pm
Thursday: 8am-12pm & 1pm-3pm
The Center closes daily from 12-1 for lunch.
See location map in Appendix G
Calcasieu Parish Public Library (Main)
Address: 301 West Claude Street
Lake Charles, LA 70605
Phone: (337) 721-7116
Website: www.calcasieulibrary.org

Other branch locations:
Carnegie Memorial Library
Address: 411 Pujo Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Phone: (337) 721-7084
Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am-6pm

Central Main Library
Address: 301 West Claude Street
Lake Charles, LA 70605
Phone: (337) 721-7116
Hours: Monday-Thursday: 9am-8pm
Friday: 9am-6pm,
Saturday: 9am-5pm, Sunday: 2pm-6pm

DeQuincy
Address: 102 West Harrison Street
DeQuincy, LA 70633
Phone: (337) 786-4213 or (337) 721-7087
Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am-6pm

Epps Memorial
Address: 1320 North Simmons Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Phone: (337) 721-7090
Hours: Monday-Thursday: 9am-8pm
Friday: 9am-6pm, Saturday: 9am-5pm

Fontenot Memorial
Address: 1402 Center Street
Vinton, LA 70668
Phone: (337) 721-7095
Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am-6pm

Hayes
Address: 7709 Perier Street
Hayes, LA 70646
Phone: (337) 622-3605 or (337) 721-7098
Hours: Monday-Friday: 10am-6pm

Iowa
Address: 107 East First St.
Iowa, LA 70647
Phone: (337) 582-3597 or (337) 721-7101
Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am-6pm

Maplewood
Address: 91 Center Circle
Suphur, LA 70663
Phone: (337) 721-7104
Hours: Monday-Friday: 1pm-5pm

Moss Bluff
Address: 261 Parish Road
Lake Charles, LA 70611
Phone: (337) 721-7128
Hours: Monday-Thursday: 9am-8pm
Friday: 9am-6pm, Saturday: 9am-5pm

Southwest Louisiana Genealogical & Historical Library
Address: 411 Pujo St.
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Phone: (337) 721-7110
Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am-6pm,
Saturday: 9am-5pm

Starks
Address: 113 South Highway 109
Starks, LA 70661
Phone: (337) 743-6560 or (337) 721-7107
Hours: Monday & Tuesday: 2pm-6pm
Wednesday: 9am-6pm
Thursday & Friday: 2pm-6pm

Sulphur Regional Library
Address: 1160 Cypress Street
Sulphur, LA 70663
Phone: (337) 721-7141
Hours: Monday-Thursday: 9am-8pm
Friday: 9am-6pm, Saturday: 9am-5pm
Sunday: 2pm-6pm
Westlake
Address: 937 Mulberry Street
Westlake, LA 70669
Phone: (337) 721-7113
Hours: Monday-Friday: 9am-6pm

Calcasieu Parish School Board
3310 Broad Street, Lake Charles, LA 70615
(337) 217-4000
www.cpsb.org/Domain/117

Calcasieu Parish Transit System
Phone: (337) 721-4040

Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Child Home
Day Care Program
Address: 2001 Moeling Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
(Multi-Purpose Center)
Phone: (337) 721-4030

Central Louisiana Technical Community College: Lamar Salter Campus
Address: 15014 Lake Charles Hwy.
Leesville, LA 71446
Phone: (337) 537-3135
www.cltcc.edu

Interview for Life: Career and Life Coaching/Interview Preparation
United Way Community Partner
Contact: Nikki Fontenot
Phone: (337) 802-7932
Website: http://www.interviewforlife.com
Call for class dates, times, and locations in your area.

Literacy Council of Southwest Louisiana
Contact: Tommeka Semien
Phone: Lake Charles office (337) 494-7000
Email: tsemien@literacyswla.org
Address: 809 Kirby St., Suite 126
Lake Charles, LA 70601
See location map in Appendix G

Adult basic education program
Contact: Gaynell Perry
Phone: (337) 494-7000

Computer basics program
Contact: Katrise Reado
Phone: (337) 494-7000

Safety Council of SWLA
Address: 1201 Ryan Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
Phone: (337) 436-3354
Website: www.safetycouncilswla.org
See location map in Appendix G

SOWELA Technical Community College
Address: 3820 Senator J. Bennett Johnston Ave.
Lake Charles, LA 70615
Phone: (337) 421-6565
Website: www.sowela.edu
See location map in Appendix G

SOWELA Technical Community College: Morgan Smith Site
Address: 1230 North Main Street
Jennings, LA 70546
Phone: (337) 824-4811
Website: www.sowela.edu/morgansmith.asp
South Louisiana Community College (SLCC) - Acadian
Address: 1933 West Hutchinson Avenue
Crowley, LA 70526
Phone: (337) 788-7521
Website: www.solacc.edu
APPENDIX B:

Craft Training
Industry and construction craft positions all require training. This can be achieved through associate degrees in various crafts as provided locally by SOWELA or through achieving a national certification.

There are a number of national certifications recognized by area industry and construction contractors. Some of the most notable include:

- American Welding Society (AWS)
- National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)
- National Institute for Certification of Engineering Technologies (NICET)
- American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT)
- National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO)

Southwest Louisiana industry employers and contractors rely heavily on these national certifications to ensure qualified employees are hired.

Locally, AWS and NCCER certification training and testing is available. Additional training courses are also being developed for inspections certifications.

Where is training for these certifications offered in SWLA?
Currently, training for various certifications is available through the Calcasieu Parish School Board, ABC, Sowela, the Lamar Salter Campus in Leesville and the Morgan Smith Campus in Jennings. ABC offers testing services for program completers and experienced workers to validate their level of certification.

As you complete each certification level for your chosen craft, your knowledge & performance will increase as well as your pay!
What craft certifications are available at these training centers in SWLA?  
*(Based on 2014 curriculum data)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Craft Training Programs</th>
<th>Offered</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Level 5</th>
<th>Assoc. Deg./Diploma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carpentry</td>
<td>A,S</td>
<td>A,S</td>
<td>A,S</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete Finishing</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical</td>
<td>A,S,MS,L</td>
<td>A,S,MS,L</td>
<td>A,S,MS,L</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy Equipment Operations</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVAC</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumentation</td>
<td>A,S</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insulating</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinist</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millwright</td>
<td>A,S</td>
<td>A,S</td>
<td>A,S</td>
<td>A,S</td>
<td>A,S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Crane Operations</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipefitting</td>
<td>A,S,MS</td>
<td>A,S,MS</td>
<td>A,S,MS</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbing</td>
<td>P</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scaffolding</td>
<td>A,S</td>
<td>A,S</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welding</td>
<td>A,C,S,MS,L</td>
<td>A,C,S,MS,L</td>
<td>A,C,S,MS,L</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A = ABC, S = SOWELA, L = Lamar Salter Campus (Leesville), MS = Morgan Smith Campus (Jennings), P = Apprenticeship Programs
Current record of costs and fees associated with training curriculums, etc.  
NOTE: Costs listed below were gathered in October 2013. Interested parties should confirm these costs with respective institutions.

ABC Training Costs  
Sponsoring industries provide more than 70 percent of the total costs. Individuals pay only the costs listed below plus materials.

- **Carpentry**  
  Two Semesters. 120 hours per semester (20 weeks – 6 hours per week – 2 evenings per week – 6pm to 9pm) $550 per semester

- **Heavy Equipment Operator**  
  Two Semesters. 120 hours per semester (20 weeks – 6 hours per week – 2 evenings per week – 6pm to 9pm) $550 per semester

- **Industrial Electrician**  
  Four Semesters. 120 hours per semester (20 weeks – 6 hours per week – 2 evenings per week – 6pm to 9pm) $550 per semester

- **Instrumentation Technician**  
  Two Semesters. 120 hours per semester (20 weeks – 6 hours per week – 2 evenings per week – 6pm to 9pm) $550 per semester

- **Insulator**  
  Two Semesters. 120 hours per semester (20 weeks – 6 hours per week – 2 evenings per week – 6pm to 9pm) $550 per semester

- **Millwright**  
  Two Semesters. 120 hours per semester (20 weeks – 6 hours per week – 2 evenings per week – 6pm to 9pm) $550 per semester

- **Mobile Crane Operator**  
  Two Semesters. 120 hours per semester (20 weeks – 6 hours per week – 2 evenings per week – 6pm to 9pm) $550 per semester

- **Pipefitter/Fabricator**  
  Two Semesters. 120 hours per semester (20 weeks – 6 hours per week – 2 evenings per week – 6pm to 9pm) $550 per semester
Ø Scaffolding
One Semester. 120 hours per semester (20 weeks – 6 hours per week – 2 evenings per week – 6pm to 9pm) **$550 per semester**

Ø Welder
At your own pace. Semester lengths are the same as all of the above. ABC also offers day welding classes that are Monday – Thursday, 1pm to 4pm. They total 240 hours per semester and the cost is **$2,800 per semester**. Welding is dependent on what level the student wishes to achieve which may occur prior to the end of the semester. An example of an average time frame to complete all levels below could be 5 to 6 semesters. An example of an average time frame to complete one level could be 1 to 1 ½ semesters.

Levels are:
- Level 1 – SMAW Plate – Unrestricted
- Level 2 – SMAW Pipe Stick – Unrestricted and Restricted
- Level 3 – GTAW Pipe TIG – Unrestricted
- Level 4 – GTAW Pipe – Restricted

Ø NCCER Assessment Costs – ABC Pelican Chapter
- Crafts Assessment: **$120**
- Craft Assessment Retakes: **$120**
- Specialty-AOC/Pipeline: **$225**
- Specialty-AOC/Pipeline Retakes: **$225**
- NCCER Mobile Crane Certification (Written) Assessment: **$300**

Adult basic education course at the Literacy Council of Southwest Louisiana
 Ø **$25** registration fee is good for one year

Apprenticeship Programs
Ø Plumbers Local 106 Apprenticeship Program
Note: If the student is accepted as a member of Local 106, they do not pay any of the costs associated with the apprenticeship training.
Lake Charles Electrical Apprenticeship Program
Cost per year for apprenticeship training (books and other fees included):
• 1st year: $411.50
• 2nd year: $496.00
• 3rd year: $339.00
• 4th year: $377.00
• 5th year: $514.00

NOTE: Starting in the fall of 2014, first year apprentices will be required to have a laptop. In years thereafter, the organization will move to simulated interactive training due to all work books going online. Textbooks will remain the same.

Basic Computer Course at the Literacy Council of Southwest Louisiana
• $15 registration fee per class

Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center
• There are no costs associated with the core services provided to the public. However, there are costs associated with an individual attending training through Workforce Investment Act, or if the individual is given Work/Keys assessment.

Central Louisiana Technical Community College – Lamar Salter – Leesville Site Training Costs
• Welding
  Class Clock Hours: 1,320; Cost Per Student: $2,400

Morgan Smith Campus Training Costs
• Electrician
  Short term class clock hours for certificate program: 330 or 50 semester credit hours;
  Cost Per Student: $1,630

• Pipefitter
  Short term class clock hours for certificate program: 315; Cost Per Student: $1,500

• Welder
  Short term class clock hours for certificate program: 600; Cost Per Student: $2,830

Safety Council of Southwest Louisiana Training Costs
• Basic Plus Orientation: $50
• Site Specific Training: $15 - $50 (depending on company)
South Louisiana Community College (SLCC) – Acadian Training Costs

- **Commercial Truck Driving**
  Class Clock Hours: 240 hours; Cost Per Student: $6,500

- **Drafting and Design Technology**
  Associate Degree: 75 credit hours or 5 semesters; Cost Per Student: $8,155.80 (including books and supplies)

SOWELA Training Costs

- **Carpentry**
  Short term class clock hours for certificate program: 440; Cost Per Student: $1,930

- **Chemical Plant/System Operator/Process Technology**
  Two year 67 credit hour Associate of Applied Science Degree program; Cost Per Student: $7,483 plus books and equipment

- **Concrete Finisher**
  Short term class clock hours for certificate program: 325; Cost Per Student: $1,580

- **Drafting and Design Technology**
  Two year 60 credit hour Associate of Applied Science Degree program; Cost Per Student: $6,525 tuition plus books and supplies

- **Electrician**
  Short term class clock hours for certificate program: 330 or 50 semester credit hours; Cost Per Student: $1,630

- **Industrial Instrumentation**
  Two year 60 credit hour Associate of Applied Science Degree program; Cost Per Student: $6,525 tuition plus books and supplies

- **Machinist**
  Short term class clock hours for certificate program: 912; Cost Per Student: $2,997

- **Millwright**
  Short term class clock hours for certificate program: 752.5; Cost Per Student: $2,729
Ø Pipefitter
  Short term class clock hours for certificate program: 315; Cost Per Student: $1,500

Ø Scaffold Builder
  Short term class clock hours for certificate program: 145; Cost Per Student: $1,184

Ø Welder
  Short term class clock hours for certificate program: 600; Cost Per Student: $2,830
Interested in getting trained on skills not directly associated with industry?
For adults who want to focus on work readiness, job training or post-secondary education, the Literacy Council partners with SOWELA Technical Community College to provide dual enrollment and transition assistance. Currently, the Literacy Council and SOWELA are recruiting for three dual enrollment programs:

- **Program 1: Adult Basic Education to College** This program is for adults who are enrolled in the adult education program and want to transition into a college program of their choice. Participants take a college orientation course, a technology course, language arts and mathematics.

- **Program 2: Intro to Auto Tech** This program is designed for adults who are interested in future careers in the Automotive Technology field. Participants earn 10 credit hours from courses focuses on college preparedness, safety, brakes and engine performance.

- **Program 3: Allied Health** This program focuses on acquisition of the nurse assistant credential and preparation for college entrance. Participants who successfully complete the program earn up to five credit hours that may be transferred to the practical nursing program. A strong emphasis is placed on reading, writing and mathematics.

**Program Contact Info**
DeRidder; Phone: (337) 348-4712
Grand Lake; Phone: (337) 598-5334
Jennings; Phone: (337) 616-9918
Lake Charles; Phone: (337) 494-7000

Please submit general inquiries via email to info@literacyswla.org or call 1-888-LIT-SWLA.
Preparing a Résumé

If you’re planning on job-hunting, you will almost certainly need a résumé. A résumé is just a written summary of what you have to offer to your potential employer—your education, work experience, and special skills. You should prepare a résumé before you make contact with a potential employer, so you have one ready to give if you’re asked.

A résumé should be designed to achieve one goal: to motivate an employer to invite you to an interview. And once you’re invited to an interview with an employer, your résumé should serve as a guide for both of you while you’re discussing your qualifications and skills. To be successful, your résumé should be an organized, complete, clear, and accurate description of your life in the world of work.

Parts of a résumé

Although there are lots of different résumé styles to choose from, every résumé has certain basic components. Your résumé should provide answers to these questions:

Contact Information—Who are you and how can you be reached?
Include your name, address, phone number, and email address if you have one. If you’re a student away from home, you should include both your school address and a permanent address so employers can reach you easily.

Objective—What do you want to do?
Including a “job objective” or “career goal” is optional, but it can be a good way to show the employer where you want to go in your career and the type of position you’re looking for now. If you’re looking for jobs in a number of different fields, you should have a different job objective for each position.
Don’t write an objective that’s vague—if you can’t write something specific, don’t include one. Your job objective may include (1) the level of position you’re looking for—such as entry level, internship, supervisory, or executive; (2) the skills you hope to bring to the position; (3) the actual title of the job you’re applying for; and (4) the field or industry in which you hope to work—such as health care, education, or banking.

Education—What have you learned?
In this section, you should include any information about your degree(s), including when and where you graduated; your major, minor, or concentration; and any academic awards or honors you’ve earned. Make sure you use the official names for schools, degrees, and majors/minors.

Experience—What have you done and what can you do?
The way you structure your “experience” section will depend on what you’re looking for and what you’ve done. This section lists the positions you’ve held, names and locations of employers, and dates you were employed. Include any volunteer work or independent study that you’ve done if it’s relevant to the job you’re seeking. You should list responsibilities and achievements for each position you’ve held. In some instances, you may want to divide your experience into sub-sections. For example, if you’re seeking a teaching job, and you have had both a teaching and a business background, two separate headings—“Teaching Experience” and “Additional Experience” may have more impact than a single heading. Try to describe your experience in the most brief and interesting way possible. However, don’t sacrifice important details just to be brief. Be hard on yourself, and if necessary, discard “good” material that won’t have any meaning to an employer.

Descriptions don’t need to be phrased in complete sentences. For example, instead of writing “My responsibilities included serving customers,” you can write “served customers.” Remember, the question in the employer’s mind is “Why should I speak with this person? How is this person different from all the other applicants?” Try to answer those questions in each of your descriptions.
Tips for writing résumés

Use proper grammar and spelling. Double-check and triple-check your résumé for spelling and grammatical errors. Even if you’re perfect for a job, small mistakes can make you look careless. Just one mistake could hurt your chances for a job.

Write clearly and concisely. Use simple terms to describe your experience and skills. Stay away from jargon that wouldn’t mean anything to a potential employer.

Be specific. Instead of writing, “I have good computer skills,” be more specific: “I have had over four years of experience with Microsoft Word, Excel, and Access.” The second sentence gets the same point across, but shows the employer exactly what you can do.

Be professional. Don’t include personal information or pictures, or discuss age, sex, weight, or height unless it is relevant to the job requirements. Don’t put your résumé in a fancy binder or folder.

Make your résumé pleasing to the eye. Don’t try to cram too much information on one page. Use ordinary font and high quality résumé paper (it’s sold at office supply stores for less than $10.00). Your paper should be a soft color such as off-white or light gray—avoid bright colors like orange or green. Print your résumé on a high-quality printer, and don’t send photocopies of your résumé.

The one-page rule. Your résumé should go over one page only if absolutely necessary. Don’t include “fluff” or extra information—especially if it means you’ll go over one page.

Include your references on a separate sheet of paper. Never include your references right on your résumé, but always have a list of references ready to provide a prospective employer. Be sure to ask your references for permission before giving out their names!

Keep your audience in mind. It’s perfectly fine to customize your résumé for each job for which you apply. You may have had a variety of different types of work experience—try to emphasize the right skills when you send out a résumé.

GPA: To include or not to include?

You aren’t required to include your GPA on your résumé, but a general rule of thumb is that if your GPA is 3.0 or above, include it. Remember, your GPA should appear just as it does on your transcript.
Résumé formats

1. **Chronological résumé.** This type of résumé is organized around your work history, with your most recent job listed first. Chronological is the traditional format, and some employers prefer this type since it’s so predictable and easy to read. However, because it emphasizes previous experience, it works best for people who have been working for a while. It’s not always the best choice for students, or for people who are thinking of changing careers and have little experience in their new field.

2. **Functional résumé.** This type of résumé emphasizes skills and abilities more than work experience. You’ll still need to list your employment history, but a functional résumé allows you to highlight your skills and specific accomplishments rather than just where you’ve worked. This is a good format for students, career-changers, and people who have gaps in their employment history.

3. **Combination résumé.** A combination résumé is a mix of the chronological and functional résumé styles. If you have some relevant experience, but also wish to emphasize particular skills and abilities that you have, this might be a good style for you.

On the next few pages, you’ll find examples of chronological and functional résumés. These examples should help you to see that not only are different formats okay, but lots of different styles are okay, too.

**Cyber résumés!**

Did you know that you can post your résumé on-line? Today, many progressive job seekers and employers are using the Internet to hook up. Most job search web sites, like www.LAWORKS.net and America’s Job Bank, make it easy for you to build your résumé and publish it on the Internet. In fact, many web sites have résumé-builders that walk you through the process. All the traditional rules for résumé-writing still apply. In general, if you’re going to distribute your résumé electronically, you can create a plain text or a hypertext résumé.

**Plain text résumés** are appropriate if you’re sending your résumé to someone via e-mail. The advantage of plain text formats are that they can be read by almost any type of computer program. The disadvantage is that you can’t use fancy formatting, like bold or italics.

**Hypertext résumés** take advantage of the features of the Internet. They may include graphics, videos, sound, hypertext links and direct e-mail.
Chronological résumé example

DARLENE MILLS
404 West 3rd Street • Phoenix, AZ 85068 • (217) 555-5555 • Darlenes_email@yahoo.com

PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVE
To obtain a paralegal position requiring expertise in employment law

WORK EXPERIENCE
May, 1998 to Present: Paralegal for Basche and Stevens, Attorneys at Law, Phoenix, Arizona
Perform legal research, focusing primarily on employment law.

Summarize depositions and legal documents, and prepare and manage databases for attorneys.

March, 1996 to May, 1998: Office Manager/Legal Secretary for Law, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona
Drafted legal correspondence, managed intake interviews, scheduled depositions,
performed minor legal research, and performed clerical work such as typing, filing, mailing,
and dealing with clients on the telephone.

March, 1995 to March, 1996: Receptionist for Pinewood Apartment Complex, Phoenix, Arizona
Drafted correspondence, managed leasing database, scheduled site visits and
maintenance checks with residents, performed clerical work; and ran errands.

Performed a variety of tasks, including greeting and seating customers, waiting
on tables, and serving food when needed; cashiering; bussing tables; and generally
attending to customers’ needs.

EDUCATION
December, 1998: Certificate in Paralegal Studies, Arizona State University
December, 1996: B.A., Philosophy, with a minor in Spanish; Arizona State University

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES
1998-Present: National Association of Paralegal Associates
1997-1998: Alpha Beta Gamma International Honor Society

References Available upon Request
Combination résumé example

LAUREN GREEN
208 South Ashton Street
New Orleans, LA 70183
Home: (504) 555-5555
email: Laurens_email@yahoo.com

Objective
To obtain an entry-level research position in a non-profit housing development organization

Education
2001: M.S. Economics, Louisiana State University, GPA: 3.88
1998: B.A. Economics and Psychology, Tulane University, GPA: 3.56

Relevant Non-Profit Skills and Experience
- Over two years of experience conducting research for a non-profit agency
- Helped organize an urban Limited Equity Housing Co-op convention for a non-profit agency
- Co-chaired the Louisiana Task Force for Hunger Outreach

Project Management Skills
- Extensive experience with database management software, including Access and FaxPro
- Designed and implemented a plan for long-term social planning for a residential community of 60
- Extensive experience in writing grant applications and research reports

Relevant Work and Volunteer Experience
1997-2001  Research Assistant for the Department of Economics, Louisiana State University. Managed research projects focusing on the Fair Housing Act, economic development, and urban renewal initiatives.

1993-1996  Co-Chair for the Louisiana Task Force for Hunger Outreach (Volunteer Position). Coordinated the activities of over 15 volunteers, organized can food drives, prepared community outreach activities and helped to staff local food pantry.

1993-1994  Researcher for Louisiana Home Network (Volunteer Position). Researched local housing prices and prepared a special report for a local task force on affordable housing.

References Available Upon Request
Job Interview Tips

**Before the Interview:**
- Learn all you can about the company.
- Have specific job or jobs in mind.
- Complete Mini Resume'.
- Mentally review your qualifications for job.
- Practice answering questions about yourself.
- Ask for location, directions, start time, and expected duration of interview, as well as parking guidelines.
- Drive by location of building the day before.
- Ask interviewer’s name, title, and company.

**During Tests:**
- Listen to instructions.
- Read each question thoroughly.
- Write legibly.
- Don’t dwell too long on one question.
- If unsure, stay with your first answer.

**During the Interview:**
- Go alone.
- Be clean and well groomed.
- Dress appropriately, neatly, and conservatively.
- Be prompt.
- Do not smoke or chew gum.
- Answer questions directly and truthfully
- Use good manners.
- Use proper grammar and good diction.
- Be enthusiastic.
- Listen, maintain eye contact, and ask questions.
- Thank the interviewer.

Mini Resume

Employers often ask for this information at a job interview. Fill in this resume ahead of time and take it with you as a reference. Add additional sheets if necessary.

**Social Security Number:**

**Driver’s License Number:**

**Emergency Contact**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>(Name)</th>
<th>(Phone No.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Highest Grade Completed:**

**Year Graduated:**

**School**

**Address**

**Honors**

**Higher Education # of years:**

**School**

**Address**

**Course/Subject**

**Degree Date**

**Activities (clubs, offices, sports, etc.)**

**Employer**

**Job Title**

**Address**

**Salary:**

**From:**

**To:**

**Employer**

**Job Title**

**Address**

**Salary:**

**From:**

**To:**

**Name**

**Address**

**Telephone number:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>(Name)</th>
<th>(Phone No.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>REFERENCES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Get permission before using names)
APPENDIX D:

Below is a sample SWLA plant pre-application. The Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center will ask you to fill out this application via an online website first. The Center recruitment team will use the information gathered from this application to get you an interview with one of our area employers.

NOTE: At the company interview, you will have to fill out an additional company-specific application.

2013 Southwest Louisiana Plant Pre-Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>10/16/13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Job Title (or type of work desired):** Operations

**Name:** Jane Deaux

**Address:** P.O. Box 123

**City, State, Zip:** Iowa, La. 70647

**Phone number:** 337-123-4567

**Email:** j.deaux@gmail.com

**Social security number:** 123-45-6789

**Date of Birth:** 01/02/1970

**Sex (circle one):** Male

**Race:** Caucasian

**Education:** McNeese U.

**Area of study and major:** H&HP

**Years attended:** 5

**Apprenticeship training or other:** Currently enrolled in PTech program

**Certifications:** None

**Work Experience:** (begin with most recent/current job)

**Name of Company:** Chemtura Biolab Inc.

**Location:** Westlake, La.

**Job Title:** Shipper/Packer

**Level of pay:** 17.25/hour

**Job Description:** Catch samples, ship out finished product, drive fork lift

**Date Started:** 08/13

**Reason for leaving:** Looking for better opportunity

Visit louisianaworks.net to apply
3. WORK EXPERIENCE (Continue working back from the job listed on the front)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Company</th>
<th>Experience Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calcasieu Parish School Board</td>
<td>Name: Jane Deaux, Teacher/Coach, Taught high school level courses and coached volleyball.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Charles, La.</td>
<td>Date Started: 08/11, Date Left: 06/13, Reason for leaving: Career change for better opportunity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. WORK EXPERIENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Company</th>
<th>Experience Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen Parish School Board</td>
<td>Name: Jane Deaux, Teacher/Coach, Taught Social Studies and coached volleyball.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oberlin, La.</td>
<td>Date Started: 06/10, Date Left: 08/11, Reason for leaving: Better opportunity in Calcasieu Parish.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. WORK EXPERIENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Company</th>
<th>Experience Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evangeline Parish School Board</td>
<td>Name: Jane Deaux, Teacher/Coach, Taught various subjects and coached volleyball.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ville Platte, La.</td>
<td>Date Started: 08/08, Date Left: 06/10, Reason for leaving: Relocated after marriage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. WORK EXPERIENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Company</th>
<th>Experience Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson Davis Parish School Board</td>
<td>Name: Jane Deaux, Teacher/Coach, Taught Social Studies and coached volleyball.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennings, La.</td>
<td>Date Started: 08/07, Date Left: 08/08, Reason for leaving: Better opportunity in Evangeline Parish.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Print your name here: Jane Deaux

List total number of years of journey-level experience in any craft position. Please describe this experience: N/A

List all other relevant work experience, training, certifications & licensing:

Currently operate various types of equipment, read gauges, catch samples, load sacks, and follow established safety guidelines.

Please circle your response:

1. Will you accept temporary work? **YES**
2. Can you work "turnaround"? **YES**
3. Petrochemical plants operate twenty-four hours every day. Most plants require that you do shift work (even clerical or professional work may require shift work). **YES**
4. Will you cut your hair and/or shave your beard for safety reasons? **NO**

Safety is a prime concern at all petrochemical plants. Safety equipment (bath, handwash, safety goggles, Nomex suits, and safety shoes) may be required when working in the plant environment. Many plants and vendors, contractors and suppliers use the safety training available at the Southwest Louisiana Safety Council, 1201 Fiji at Clarence Street in Downtown Lake Charles. Please contact them 337-438-2354 if you are interested in safety training for industrial or construction sites.

Job listings, labor market information, training and employment information in Louisiana are available on the web at www.laworks.net. You can get job hunting tips, job leads, and even post your resumes electronically for employers to view at that site.

Face-to-face service is available at Laworks-Calcasieu Workforce Center at 2424 3rd Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, with hours 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Security and identity theft issues require us to ask for pictured identification and registration in the LAWORKS system. For testing and other services of this agency, you will be required to formally register for work and to interview with a staff person.

SWLA Plant Pre-App, 1/3/2009

**IMPORTANT!**
In order to be considered for most jobs with industry, you must be willing to take a drug test and remove facial hair and piercings that may prevent the proper use of plant safety equipment, such as goggles and hardhats.
APPENDIX E:

What is the process for obtaining a TWIC?

✓ **Step 1: Gather documents**
  • Applicants are required to bring identity documents to the enrollment center. See list of documents on the following pages.

✓ **Step 2: Enroll**
  • Appointments to visit an enrollment center can only be made via phone by calling 1 (855) 347-8371 anytime Monday through Friday from 7am - 9pm CST.

  • Lake Charles UES Enrollment Center
    Physical Address: 1 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 105, Lake Charles, LA 70601-4273
    Phone: (337) 491-0807
    Hours: Monday-Friday (8:30am - 4:30pm)

  *NOTE: The Lake Charles Enrollment Center is located at the Capital One Tower Building. There is truck parking available in the Lake Charles Civic Center parking lot located across the street to the south. There is also parking available on the north on Ann Street.*

  • Applicants must visit an enrollment center where they will:
    - Complete a TWIC Disclosure and Certification Form
    - Pay the enrollment fee (The enrollment fee for the TWIC program is $129.75. Workers with current, comparable background checks will pay a reduced fee of $105.25.)
    - Provide biographic information and a complete set of fingerprints
    - Sit for a digital photograph

✓ **Step 3: Pick up TWIC**
  • Applicants will be notified by email or phone, as specified during enrollment, when their TWIC is available at the enrollment center

  • Applicants must return to the center at which they enrolled to pick up their TWIC (unless they specify another enrollment center at the time of enrollment)

  • TWICs will be issued to workers 6 – 8 weeks after enrollment

  • Applicants can check the status of their card and schedule a pick-up appointment by going to www.universalenroll.dhs.gov/workflows?workflow=service-status
**Documentation Needed if you were born INSIDE the United States**

If you are a citizen of the United States (or its outlying possessions) and you were born inside the United States (or its outlying possessions), you must provide one document from column A – OR – two documents from column B. At least one of them must be a government-issued photo ID, such as a state-issued driver’s license, military ID card or state identification card.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLUMN A</th>
<th>COLUMN B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired U.S. passport book or passport card</td>
<td>• Unexpired driver’s license issued by a State or outlying possession of the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired Merchant Mariner Document</td>
<td>• Unexpired ID card issued by a State or outlying possession of the United States. Must include a State or State agency seal or logo (such as a state port authority ID or State University ID)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired Free and Secure Trade (FAST) Card</td>
<td>• Original or certified copy of birth certificate issued by a State, county, municipal authority, or outlying possession of the United States bearing an official seal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired NEXUS Card</td>
<td>• Voter’s registration card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI) Card</td>
<td>• U.S. military ID card or U.S. retired military ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired United States Enhanced Driver’s License (EDL)</td>
<td>• U.S. military dependent’s card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired Enhanced Tribal Card (ETC)</td>
<td>• Expired U.S. passport (within 12 months of expiration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Native American tribal document (with photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• U.S. social security card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• U.S. military discharge papers (DD-214)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Department of Transportation (DOT) medical card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• U.S. civil marriage certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Unexpired Merchant Mariner License (MML) bearing an official raised seal, or a certified copy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Unexpired Department of Homeland Security (DHS) / Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Unexpired Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Documentation Needed if you were born OUTSIDE the United States

If you are a citizen of the United States (or its outlying possessions) but you were born outside the United States (or its outlying possessions), you must provide one document from column A – OR – two documents from column B. If you present two documents from column B, at least one of them must be a government-issued photo ID, such as a state-issued driver’s license, military ID card or state identification card. One of the documents you provide must demonstrate that you are a citizen of the United States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLUMN A</th>
<th>COLUMN B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired U.S. passport book or passport card --demonstrates U.S. citizenship</td>
<td>• U.S. Certificate of Citizenry (N-560 or 561) --demonstrates U.S. citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired Merchant Mariner Document --demonstrates U.S. citizenship if indicated on the MMD</td>
<td>• U.S. Certificate of Naturalization (N-550 or 570) --demonstrates U.S. citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired Free and Secure Trade (FAST) Card --demonstrates U.S. citizenship</td>
<td>• U.S. Citizen Identification Card (I-179 or I-197) --demonstrates U.S. citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired NEXUS Card --demonstrates U.S. citizenship</td>
<td>• Expired U.S. passport (within 12 months of expiration) --demonstrates U.S. citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired United States Enhanced Driver’s License (EDL) --demonstrates U.S. citizenship</td>
<td>• Certification of Report of Birth Abroad (DS-1350 or FS-545) --demonstrates U.S. citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired Enhanced Tribal Card (ETC) --demonstrates U.S. citizenship</td>
<td>• Unexpired driver’s license issued by a State or outlying possession of the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired ID card issued by a State or outlying possession of the United States</td>
<td>• Unexpired ID card issued by a State or outlying possession of the United States. Must include a State or State agency seal or logo (such as a state port authority ID or State University ID)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Voter’s registration card</td>
<td>• Voter’s registration card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• U.S. military ID card or U.S. retired military ID</td>
<td>• U.S. military ID card or U.S. retired military ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• U.S. military dependent’s card</td>
<td>• U.S. military dependent’s card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Native American tribal document (with photo)</td>
<td>• Native American tribal document (with photo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• U.S. social security card</td>
<td>• U.S. social security card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• U.S. military discharge papers (DD-214)</td>
<td>• U.S. military discharge papers (DD-214)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Department of Transportation (DOT) medical card</td>
<td>• Department of Transportation (DOT) medical card</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• U.S. civil marriage certificate</td>
<td>• U.S. civil marriage certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired Merchant Mariner License (MML) bearing an official raised seal, or a certified copy</td>
<td>• Unexpired Merchant Mariner License (MML) bearing an official raised seal, or a certified copy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired Department of Homeland Security (DHS) / Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)</td>
<td>• Unexpired Department of Homeland Security (DHS) / Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Unexpired Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC)</td>
<td>• Unexpired Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are the eligibility requirements?
An individual must be a U.S. citizen or fall into an eligible immigration category and can not have been convicted of certain crimes. In addition, individuals cannot be connected to terrorist activity or lack mental capacity.

What if I do not meet the eligibility requirements?
Applicants who are denied a TWIC will be sent a letter explaining the reason for denial and instructed on how to apply for an appeal or waiver.

What can disqualify me from getting a TWIC?
An individual who lacks lawful presence and certain immigration status in the United States, has a connection to terrorist activity, has been determined to lack mental capacity or was convicted of certain crimes will be ineligible for a TWIC.

What are the disqualifying offenses? What are the waiver policies for each type of offense?
Parts A and B provide a comprehensive list of disqualifying offenses and the waiver policies for each.

Part A – Permanent Disqualifying Offenses
Conviction for one of the following felonies is disqualifying regardless of when it occurred, and the applicant is not eligible for a waiver.

- Espionage or conspiracy to commit espionage.
- Sedition, or conspiracy to commit sedition.
- Treason, or conspiracy to commit treason.
- A federal crime of terrorism as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2332b(g), or comparable State law, or conspiracy to commit such crime. Conviction for one of the following felonies is disqualifying regardless of when it occurred, and the applicant may apply for a waiver.
- A crime involving a transportation security incident. A transportation security incident is a security incident resulting in a significant loss of life, environmental damage, transportation system disruption, or economic disruption in a particular area, as defined in 46 U.S.C. 70101. The term “economic disruption” does not include a work stoppage or other employee-related action not related to terrorism and resulting from an employer-employee dispute.
- Improper transportation of a hazardous material under 49 U.S.C. 5124, or a State law that is comparable.
- Unlawful possession, use, sale, distribution, manufacture, purchase, receipt, transfer, shipping, transporting, import, export, storage of, or dealing in an explosive or explosive device. An explosive or explosive device includes an explosive or explosive material as defined in 18 U.S.C. 232(5), 841(c) through 841(f), and 844(j); and a destructive device, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(4) and 26 U.S.C. 5845(f).
• Murder.
• Making any threat, or maliciously conveying false information knowing the same to be false, concerning the deliverance, placement, or detonation of an explosive or other lethal device in or against a place of public use, a state or government facility, a public transportations system, or an infrastructure facility.
• Violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, 18 U.S.C. 1961, et seq., or a comparable State law, where one of the predicate acts found by a jury or admitted by the defendant, consists of one of the crimes listed in Column A.
• Attempt to commit the crimes in Part A, items 1 - 4.
• Conspiracy or attempt to commit the crimes in Part A, items 5 - 10.

Part B – Interim Disqualifying Offenses
Conviction for one of the following felonies is disqualifying if the applicant was convicted, pled guilty (including ‘no contest’), or found not guilty by reason of insanity within 7 years of the date of the TWIC application; OR if the applicant was released from prison after conviction within 5 years of the date of the application. The applicant may apply for a waiver.
• Unlawful possession, use, sale, manufacture, purchase, distribution, receipt, transfer, shipping, transporting, delivery, import, export of, or dealing in a firearm or other weapon. A firearm or other weapon includes, but is not limited to, firearms as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3) or 26 U.S.C. 5 845(a), or items contained on the U.S. Munitions Import List at 27 CFR 447.21.
• Extortion.
• Dishonesty, fraud, or misrepresentation, including identity fraud and money laundering where the money laundering is related to a crime described in Columns A or B. Welfare fraud and passing bad checks do not constitute dishonesty, fraud, or misrepresentation for purposes of this paragraph.
• Bribery.
• Smuggling.
• Immigration violations.
• Distribution of, possession with intent to distribute, or importation of a controlled substance.
• Arson.
• Kidnapping or hostage taking.
• Rape or aggravated sexual abuse.
• Assault with intent to kill.
• Robbery.
• Fraudulent entry into a seaport as described in 18 U.S.C. 1036, or a comparable State law.
• Violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, 18 U.S.C. 1961, et seq., or a comparable State law, other than the violations listed in Part A, item 10
• Conspiracy or attempt to commit felonies listed in Part B.

What if a conviction is “exonerated?”
If a conviction is expunged or pardoned, the criminal records may reveal this. If they do not, TSA sends the applicant a Preliminary Determination of Ineligibility letter explaining what the records show and how the applicant can correct inaccurate records.

What if my initial disqualifying crime is no longer applicable? Can I reapply for a TWIC?
Applicants are encouraged to reapply if their initial disqualifying offense is no longer applicable. Applicants will need to understand the nature of the initial disqualification and the corresponding look-back periods of 5 or 7 years if applicable. Reapplying can occur as long as there are no secondary disqualifying events.

What if I have a disqualifying crime that was expunged from my record?
The applicant should proceed with TWIC enrollment as though they do not have a disqualifying offense, as long as the record is truly expunged. Per 49 C.F.R. §1570.3, a conviction is expunged when “the conviction is removed from the individual’s criminal history record and there are no legal disabilities or restrictions associated with the expunged conviction, other than the fact that the conviction may be used for sentencing purposes for subsequent convictions.” However, if the applicant is a credentialed mariner or intends to apply for a mariner credential, he or she must report convictions that were expunged on their application to obtain the MMC. Failure to disclose expunged convictions could result in a determination that the application for the mariner credential is fraudulent.

Can a person under indictment apply for a TWIC? Do they still have the appeal and waiver process available to them?
An individual under indictment for a disqualifying criminal offense may not hold a TWIC until the indictment is dismissed. If the applicant has an indictment pending, the applicant could apply for a waiver; however, a request for a waiver does not guarantee that a waiver will be granted.

What options are available to me if I am initially determined to be ineligible for a TWIC?
Applicants who are initially determined to be ineligible for a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) will be provided with TSA’s justification for denial, and instruction for how to apply for an appeal or waiver. The process is straightforward, and no legal knowledge is needed, nor is legal representation necessary. Requests may be typed or handwritten.
**Appeal** – If you believe you that you should not have been determined to be ineligible for a TWIC (i.e. you may think the decision was based on incorrect court records or incorrect information provided at enrollment), you may request an appeal. You may request copies of the materials that TSA used to make the determination to assist you in deciding whether a correction must be made to your court records and/or what information must be provided to justify your appeal.

**Waiver** – If you have a disqualifying offense, meet the description of mental incapacity, or are an alien under temporary protected status, you may request a waiver. When completing a waiver request, the applicant should describe why he/she no longer poses a security threat. Information that assists TSA with this determination includes:

- The circumstances surrounding the conviction.
- The length of time the applicant has been out of prison if sentenced to incarceration.
- The applicant’s work and personal history since the conviction.
- Whether the applicant made restitution or completed mitigation remedies, such as probation or community service.
- References from employers, probation officers, parole officers, clergy, and others who know the applicant and can attest to his/her responsibility and good character.
- If denied due to mental incapacity, court records or official medical release documents that relate to the applicant’s mental health may also be included with the waiver request.
- If an alien under temporary protected status, information attesting to that.

**What options are available if I am denied an appeal or waiver?**

- **Appeals and Waivers Related to Immigration Status**
  - If an applicant’s appeal or waiver is denied because he or she was unable to prove immigration eligibility to hold a TWIC, then the applicant may re-enroll when he or she has documents that prove immigration eligibility.

- **Appeals Related to Disqualifying Criminal Offenses**
  - If an applicant’s appeal is denied because he or she was unable to prove that a disqualifying criminal offense has been expunged or that the applicant has been pardoned, then the applicant may file a waiver.

- **Waivers Related to Disqualifying Criminal Offenses**
  - If an applicant's waiver for a disqualifying criminal offense has been denied, then the applicant may request a review by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), a third party who reviews the information pertaining to an individual's case. Additional information on the ALJ process is available in section 49 CFR 1515.11.
What is the timeframe for submitting a request for an appeal or a waiver?

- Applicants must send appeal and waiver requests to TSA within 60 days of receiving TSA’s Preliminary Determination of Ineligibility letter. If the applicant does not respond to TSA within 60 calendar days, TSA’s decision regarding the applicant’s eligibility for a TWIC automatically becomes final, and the applicant is disqualified from holding a TWIC.

- If an applicant needs more than 60 days to respond, then the applicant should send a letter to TSA asking for an extension. Any requests for time extensions will automatically be granted by TSA.

Where do I send appeals or waivers requests?
Fax Number: (540) 710-2763 or (540) 710-2783

Mailed via U.S. Postal service (note: Registered Mail is accepted) to:
Transportation Security Administration
TSA TWIC Processing Center
P.O. Box 8118
Fredericksburg, VA 22404-8118

Please remember to include the cover sheet (that was provided with your letter from TSA) and all supporting documentation when faxing or mailing your material.
Appendix F:

Scholarships and Support Services

You may qualify for financial aid to assist in your training and education. Please check with the resources below to see if you qualify.

**SOWELA**  
Office of Workforce Development  
(337) 421-6964

**Calcasieu Business and Career Solutions Center**  
Workforce Investment Board Support Services  
(337) 721-4010

**ABC Sponsorships and Support**  
(337) 882-0204

Other support services offered by the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Office of Community Services

*NOTE: If you do not have a vehicle or reliable transportation, take advantage of the Calcasieu Parish Public Transit System.*

Calcasieu Public Transit System is a curb-to-curbside transit service sponsored by the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Citizens desiring transit assistance by Calcasieu Transit must meet certain income qualifications. For more information regarding eligibility, rates and scheduling, please contact Calcasieu Transit at (337) 721-4040.

- Other services offered:
  - **Rural Services**  
    Calcasieu Transit offers citizens residing in rural areas of Calcasieu Parish access to health care, shopping, education, employment, public services and recreation services on a first-come/first-serve basis. All cities and townships outside of the City of Lake Charles are covered by the Rural Program.
• **Urban Services**  
  Calcasieu Transit offers citizens residing in the City of Lake Charles access to health care, shopping, education, employment, public services and recreation services on a first-come/first-serve basis.

• **Elderly Program**  
  The elderly of Calcasieu Parish can access all services offered by Calcasieu Transit. Separate rates and programs do exist for the elderly.

• **General Public Services**  
  The general public population can access health care, shopping, education, employment, public services and recreation services on a first-come/first-serve basis.

• **Day Care Services**  
  If you do not have or can’t afford child care, consider the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Child Home Day Care Program.

For more information on services, contact:  
Multi-Purpose Center  
2001 Moeling Street  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
(337) 721-4030
APPENDIX G:

SOWELA LOCATION MAP

3820 Sen. J. Bennett Johnston Ave.
Lake Charles, LA 70615
(337) 421-6565
ASSOCIATED BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS (ABC) LOCATION MAP

222 Walcot Rd
Westlake, LA 70669
(337) 882-0204
CALCASIEU BUSINESS & CAREER SOLUTIONS CENTER
LOCATION MAP

2424 3rd St.
Lake Charles, LA  70601
(337) 721-4010
LITERACY COUNCIL OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA
LOCATION MAP

809 Kirby St., Suite 126
Lake Charles, LA  70601
(337) 494-7000
SOUTH LOUISIANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (SLCC) - ACADIAN LOCATION MAP

1933 West Hutchinson Avenue
Crowley, LA  70526
(337) 788-7521
NOTES
## CONTACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>