

THE EXCELLENCE DISTRICT — TRADE TRAINING & APPRENTICESHIP GUIDE

Verified: September 13, 2026

Purpose

This guide connects members to practical pathways into skilled trades, paid apprenticeships, technical credentials, and workforce-funded training.

START HERE — GEORGIA PATHWAYS

TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

Official source: <https://www.tcsg.edu/>

TCSG operates 22 technical colleges across Georgia with hundreds of degree, diploma, and certificate options.

HOPE CAREER GRANT

Official source: <https://www.tcsg.edu/free-tuition/>

For qualified Georgia students receiving the HOPE Grant, designated high-demand programs may be tuition-free through the HOPE Career Grant.

TCSG currently lists high-demand fields including:

- Automotive Technology
- Aviation Technology
- Commercial Truck Driving
- Computer Programming
- Computer Technology
- Construction Technology
- Diesel Equipment Technology
- Electrical Lineman Technology
- Health Science
- Industrial Maintenance
- Logistics / Transportation Technology
- Precision Manufacturing
- Welding and Joining Technology
- Practical Nursing
- Early Childhood Care and Education
- Law Enforcement / Criminal Justice
- Movie Production Set Design
- Certified Engineer Assistant

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS IN GEORGIA

Official source: <https://www.tcsg.edu/for-students/apprenticeship-programs/>

Registered Apprenticeship combines paid on-the-job learning with related technical instruction.

Program offerings vary by college and employer.

Examples listed by TCSG include:

- Industrial Maintenance Technician
- Mechatronics Technician
- CNC / Machine Tool occupations
- Electrical Controls Technician
- Instrumentation Technician
- Other employer-specific skilled occupations

APPRENTICE GEORGIA

Official source: <https://www.tcsg.edu/worksource/strategic-populations/apprentice/>

TCSG describes Registered Apprenticeships as paid work-based learning that can lead to degrees, certifications, licenses, and a nationally recognized U.S. Department of Labor credential, depending on the occupation and program.

TOP STATE FOR TALENT PRE-APPRENTICESHIP & APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Official source: <https://www.tcsg.edu/tsap/>

This Georgia initiative supports employers and Registered Apprenticeship Program sponsors that create or expand apprenticeship pathways in high-demand industries.

WORKSOURCE ATLANTA — WIOA TRAINING

Official source:

<https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/atlanta-department-of-labor-and-employment-services/wioa-education-and-training-services>

Eligible Atlanta residents and qualifying dislocated workers may receive workforce-funded training in high-demand occupations, subject to WIOA eligibility and approved-provider rules.

GREATER ATLANTA EXAMPLES

GWINNETT TECH — BASIC ELECTRICIAN ASSISTANT CERTIFICATE

Official source: <https://gwinnetttech.edu/ecmd-division/basic-electrician-assistant/>

The program is designed as an entry pathway into the electrical trade. Gwinnett Tech states that successful completion can make candidates eligible to sit for the apprenticeship exam.

Financial aid, HOPE Grant, and HOPE Career Grant options may apply depending on eligibility.

ATLANTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE — INDUSTRIAL TRADE SCHOLARSHIP

Official source: <https://www.atlantatech.edu/financial-aid-types-of-financial-aid/>

The WCCI R.I.S.E. to Excellence Scholarship is described as support for qualifying students in industrial trade programs, including examples such as plumbing, HVAC, electrical engineering, welding, and carpentry. Current application availability must be checked before promotion.

COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVING

Official source: <https://www.tcsg.edu/cdl/>

TCSG states that tuition is covered by the HOPE Career Grant for HOPE Grant-qualified students in its Commercial Truck Driving program.

HOW MEMBERS SHOULD CHOOSE A PATH

1. Pick the occupation before picking the school.
2. Check whether the job requires a state license, local license, certification, apprenticeship hours, examination, or employer sponsorship.
3. Compare paid apprenticeship against classroom-only training.
4. Check whether WIOA, HOPE, scholarships, employer funding, veterans benefits, or other aid can reduce out-of-pocket cost.
5. Verify the credential earned, total program cost, equipment/tool requirements, schedule, completion time, job-placement support, and employer partners.
6. Ask how prior experience or military training may count.
7. Do not pay a private training provider before verifying the credential and employer recognition.

TRADE PATHWAY WORKSHEET

Target occupation:

Why this trade:

Typical entry credential:

Licensing / certification requirements:

Apprenticeship available:

Training provider:

Program length:

Tuition / fees:

Tools / supplies:

Funding sources:

Paid while training:

Employer partners:

Expected completion date:

First application step:

Backup pathway:

RESOURCE CENTER IMPLEMENTATION

The live site should allow filtering by:

- Trade / occupation
- County / service area
- Paid apprenticeship vs. classroom training
- Tuition-free / scholarship / WIOA eligible
- Evening / weekend / online availability
- Credential type
- Program length
- Member mentor available

All program details should display a “Last Verified” date and official source link.