

DISCOVERING QUALITY JOBS

ELECTRICIAN

WHAT ARE QUALITY JOBS?

Quality Jobs offer competitive wages and benefits, predictable hours, and opportunities for advancement without requiring a college degree. They exist in high-growth industries that value skills gained through alternative routes such as training programs, military service, lived experience, and more.

WHAT ARE ELECTRICIANS?

Electricians install, maintain, and repair electrical systems in everything from homes to large industrial buildings. They handle wiring, lighting, switches, and advanced equipment. Their work is also essential to the clean energy transition, supporting the installation of solar panels, electric vehicle chargers, and energy-efficient systems for a more sustainable future.

YOU MIGHT ENJOY THIS JOB IF YOU ARE:

- Curious about how things work in various settings.
- Comfortable with hands-on work and using tools.
- Skilled at following instructions and solving problems.
- A team player who communicates clearly and reliably.
- Focused on safety for yourself and others on the job.

ELECTRICIANS WORK AT:

Indoors in tight spaces, ladders and scaffolding



Outdoors in the elements (rain, snow, sun and mud)

Residential and Commercial Buildings



Solar and wind farms



Battery storage facilities

Electric vehicle charging stations

THEY ARE ALSO KNOWN AS:

Inside Electrician

Residential Wireman

Lineman

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A QUALITY JOB:



Living Wages: Starting pay for electricians is above **\$19 per hour** for non-union workplaces and **\$24 per hour** for union-represented workplaces.



Accessible Hiring Practices: **No advanced degrees required.** Minimum qualifications and selection procedures for apprenticeship can be found on the Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) website.



Comprehensive Benefits: Many employers offer full benefits which can increase total compensation up to 30%. **Retirement plans and pension** commonly available for union-represented workplaces.



Training and Advancement Opportunities: Structured **paid apprenticeship programs** combining on-the-job training with classroom instruction leads to journey worker and higher-level roles.

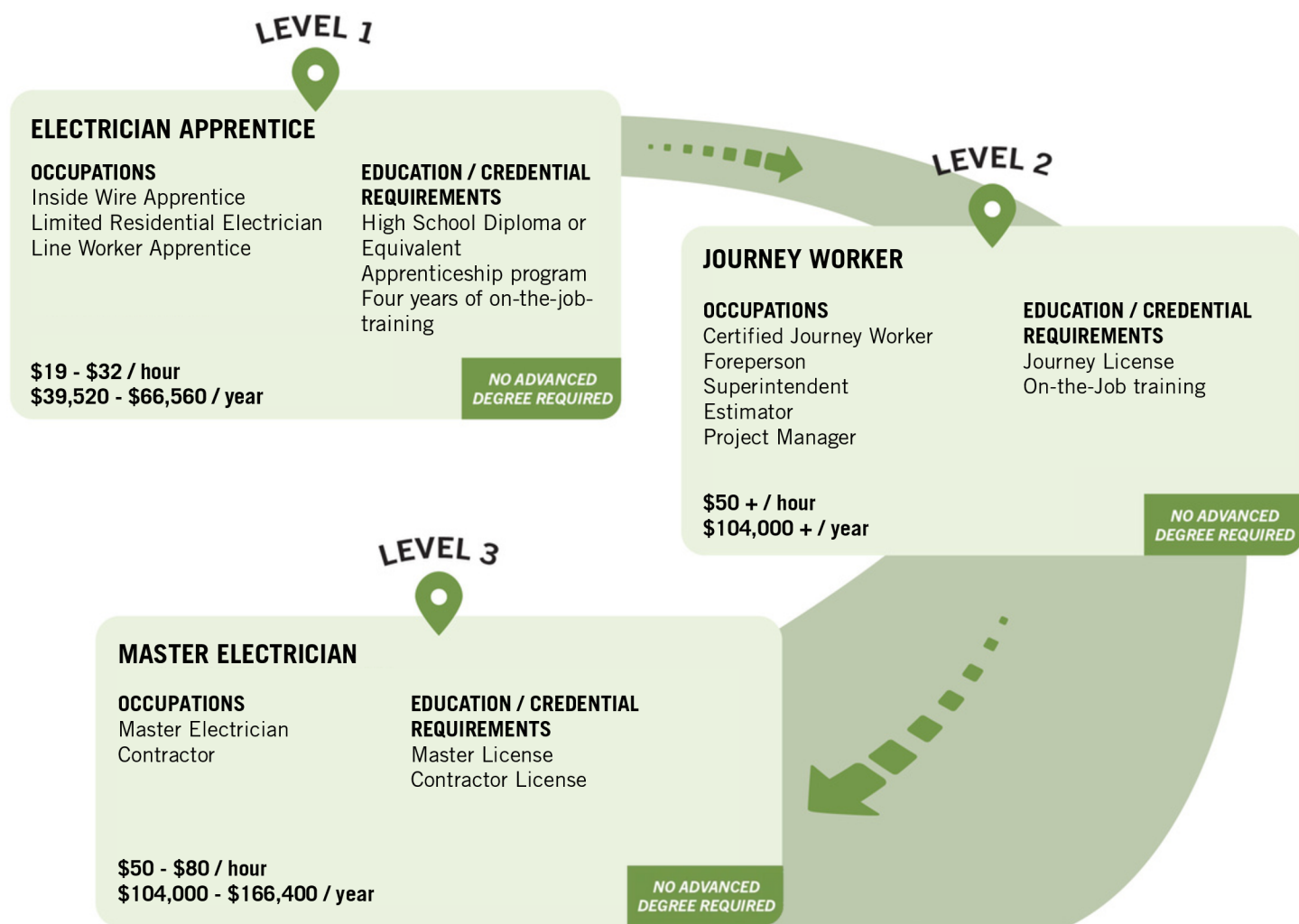


Predictable Schedule: Full-time predictable schedules depend on the employer, job type and whether the workplace is union or non-union. Others have **variable schedules** depending on the job assigned.



Worker Safety and Engagement: Apprentices work under the supervision of a journey person. **Safety is reinforced across the industry** and strong safety standards and training plans are in place.

CAREER PATHWAYS FOR ELECTRICIANS



COMMON QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Diploma or GED equivalent.
- Minimum of one year of high school algebra with a grade of C or better (or equivalent).
- Must be at least 18 years of age at the time of acceptance into the program

INSIDER TIPS:

- Start as an apprentice: Apply for a state-registered apprenticeship program to earn while you learn.
- Get licensed: Complete required hours of training and pass the Oregon electrician licensing exam.
- Stay updated: Electrical codes and technologies change —ongoing education is key to staying certified and competitive



GET STARTED

CONNECT WITH A WORKSOURCE REP

Talk to your career coach or get in touch with a WorkSource representative today at worksourceportlandmetro.org.

GET A HEAD START

WorkSource offers scholarships for training and certification. Learn more about applying by attending a free virtual info session. Visit worksourceportlandmetro.org/events to register.