

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Is there a lot of travel involved?

There is quite a bit of travel involved. Some companies work statewide, some even work in surrounding states, and some only work a certain number of miles from their office.

What are the different certifications you will receive by the end of the program?

By the end of the program, the graduates will have a flagging, CPR-First-aid-AED, OSHA-10, TrANS certificate. By class end, you will also qualify for a union apprenticeship- (Letter of qualification), most graduates have taken and passed at least one of the CDL – (Commercial Driver’s License) tests, to qualify for a temporary CDL.

Also, blueprint & plan reading from a civil engineer with everyone receiving a copy of the blueprints for a major highway job. You’ll also receive training in tool and equipment identifications. Finally, soft skills that will help with getting employment; such as resumes with references, interviewing skills, budget & time management, work ethics, working in the industry information will be shared.

Does the TrANS certificate help me to gain employment in road construction versus not having a TrANS certificate?

Most employers in the state of Wisconsin that do state or federal work in road construction recognize the certificate and the benefits of hiring the graduates. They have more knowledge of what is expected in the construction industry, some safety, and know what it takes to go out on the job. In Wisconsin most road construction work is seasonal so during the classes, you learn how to budget your money and your time.

In the state of Wisconsin any highway project that has an ASP-1- (A special provision, stating a number of TrANS hires for the project), there is a monetary reward, that for employers that hire TrANS graduates for these projects, receive \$5.00 an hour for every hour they work on these projects. They can receive up to 2000 hours on these projects (Per company), and the entire time they are in an apprenticeship on these projects. Many companies take advantage of this incentive.

I want to operate equipment. Can I operate equipment right away?

Most companies hire graduates as entry-level employees, usually you start as a flagger or a laborer on a project. If the company is a union company you will have to join a union after thirty days, usually.

The teamsters will let you operate trucks, some are haul trucks with no CDL required, dump trucks, low boys, and larger straight trucks as long as you have a CDL.

For the operator's union, you need to take an apprenticeship test, and then find an employer to take you on as an apprentice. Before you get hired for a company, you can take the written apprenticeship test and pass it – (Operating Engineers Local 139), you can pay a certain amount of money if you think you are proficient enough to operate three pieces of equipment of their choice and you will receive a full journeyman's card. However, this doesn't happen very often.

Do I have to join a union?

This all depends on if you are hired for a union employer or not and is ultimately the graduate's choice, even though they qualify for at least one union. When graduates are applying for jobs, or when I refer them to an employer, I make sure they qualify or are interested in joining this type of union, before applying there. If they are a union employer, a person has at least 30 days before they have to join one.

There are also non-union companies that also offer apprenticeship training through the off season on their own or are part of ABC training.

How hard is it to take the CDL (Commercial Driver's License) temps test?

During the classes you receive a paper copy of the Wisconsin commercial driver's license book which has general knowledge, air brakes, combination, hazmat, and doubles and triples in it. We have Powerpoints and go over all the questions in general knowledge and air brakes. We also implement technology and make use of an app on their phone with many practice questions.

When you take one of these tests, you take them at the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles), they have touch screen tests, you have as much time as you need, and you can skip one and go back to one if you do not know it. There are 50 questions on general knowledge, and air brakes has 32 questions, but because of all the numbers you need to know, the air brakes test is tougher for most. You can take the test if you don't pass it in another 24 hours, and you have 5 times to try to pass each test during a 1 year period.