Compare Workforce Pell Programs

How each approved program is joined to public records on completion, employment, earnings, pay in the job, openings and AI exposure. Version 1.1, November 19, 2026.

Purpose

The page gives a student considering a Workforce Pell program the same five signals for every approved program: whether past students finished, whether they found work, what they earned, what the job pays and how often it opens up in the program's state, and how much of the work AI can do. Every figure is public and is labeled by how closely it describes the program itself.

The programs

All 35 programs approved for Workforce Pell as of November 16, 2026: those announced by the U.S. Department of Education and those listed as federally approved on official state rosters, as documented in the **State Implementation Record**. The list, the posted length and cost, the campus and the program link are read from the cards on the **Workforce Pell for Students** page, which the Record's update procedure keeps current; the build stops if the two lists disagree. Length and cost come from each college's own program page; where the page does not state them, the page says "Not posted" rather than estimating.

Evidence levels

Earnings records exist at different distances from the program. The page shows the most specific one available and badges it:

Earnings: this program (12 programs): the program's listing on the state Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). **Earnings: same course, NC** (4): North Carolina's published figures for the same noncredit course across all its colleges. **Earnings: similar programs** (5 at the college, 6 statewide): Census PSEO earnings for certificates under one year in the same four-digit CIP family. **Earnings: not published** (8): none of these is published.

Completion and employment rates follow the same order: the program's ETPL record first, then the North Carolina course record. A program can have rates but no earnings (Pima Medical Institute's earnings are suppressed in the federal file; Metropolitan Community College's pharmacy technician earnings rest on five employed people and are not shown).

1. The program's own record (ETPL)

Source: the full program file on **TrainingProviderResults.gov**, U.S. Department of Labor, compiled from the ETA-9171 reports states file for their Eligible Training Provider Lists (77,085 listings). Each approved program was matched by hand to a listing at the same college in the same state; 20 of 35 match. A listing was accepted when

the provider and the program agree (title, credential, description or the program page it links to) and the listing is not a different level of training. Listed weeks are the ETPL listing's full-time length and can differ from the schedule submitted for Workforce Pell (Forsyth Tech's lineworker listing gives 16 weeks against the college's 8); ETPL tuition is not used. Listings for a degree or a longer academy (a 30-week corrections academy, a 75-week paramedic program) or with a title that cannot be tied to one approved course (Weatherford College's Introduction to HVAC, Texas Southmost College's "Welding") were rejected. Eleven of the matches repeat the hand review behind **Short Programs and the Outcome Test**; the other 9 were added for this page and are named below the table.

Completion = students who completed (DE122) over students who exited (DE121). Employment = students employed in the second quarter after exit (DE123) over the second-quarter denominator (DE129). Rates are shown only where the denominator is at least 10. Median earnings in the second quarter after exit (DE125) are a quarterly amount; they are shown only where at least 10 students were employed, and the page multiplies them by four as "about a year if it held," labeled as an estimate. ETPL completion has no time limit, so it is indicative of, not the same as, the 70 percent completion standard in 34 CFR 690.94(a)(2)(i). The records describe students before Workforce Pell began. The employment rate is computed over a different exit group (DE129) than the completion rate (DE121), so the two rates describe overlapping but not identical cohorts. 15 of the 20 matched programs have published rates; 12 have earnings shown.

Program	ETPL listing (city)	Exited	Finished	Working Q2	Median Q2 earnings
Clinical Medical Assistant, Ivy Tech Community College, IN	Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) Certification (South Bend)	58	79%	65%	$6,068
Pharmacy Technician, Metropolitan Community College, NE	Pharmacy Technician - Certificate of Completion; Licensure (Omaha)	25	88%	20%	
Basic Machining, Weatherford College, TX	Machining Manual & CNC - Main Campus (Weatherford)	21	48%	57%	
Electrical Power Lineman, Kilgore College, TX	Electric Power Technology Certificate (Kilgore)	246	95%	90%	$16,531
Phlebotomy Technician, Kilgore College, TX	Phlebotomy (Kilgore)	84	95%	88%	$6,783
Electrical Lineworker, Forsyth Technical Community College, NC	Electrical Lineman (Winston-Salem)	134	92%	87%	$10,916
Emergency Medical Technician (Basic), Forsyth Technical Community College, NC	Emergency Medical Technician Initial Course (Winston-Salem)	283	86%	79%	$9,770
Fire Academy, Forsyth Technical Community College, NC	Fire Academy (Winston-Salem)				
Nursing Assistant, Forsyth Technical Community College, NC	Nursing Assistant (Winston-Salem)	90	79%	91%	$5,983
Nursing Assistant II, Forsyth Technical Community College, NC	Nursing Assistant II (Winston-Salem)				
Welding Industrial, Forsyth Technical Community College, NC	Welding, Industrial (Winston-Salem)	60	65%	76%	$10,590
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Eastern Florida State College, FL	Emergency Medical Technician-C (Melbourne)				
Phlebotomy Technician, Pima Medical Institute, AZ	Phlebotomy Technician (Phoenix)	436	64%	67%	

Program	ETPL listing (city)	Exited	Finished	Working Q2	Median Q2 earnings
CNC Entry-Level Technician, Eastern Iowa Community Colleges, IA	CNC Machining (Davenport)				
Emergency Medical Technician, Iowa Western Community College, IA	Emergency Medical Technician (Council Bluffs)	263	6%	83%	$11,138
Pharmacy Technician, Central Texas College, TX	Pharmacy Technician (Killeen)	38	92%	56%	$5,423
BioWork Process Technician, Central Carolina Community College, NC	Bioworks Process Technician (Sanford)	364	85%	77%	$10,693
Nurse Aide Level I, Central Carolina Community College, NC	Nurse Aide I (Sanford)	241	81%	75%	$5,830
Phlebotomy Technician, Central Carolina Community College, NC	Phlebotomy Technician (Sanford)	19	84%	80%	$5,754
Truck Driver Training, Johnston Community College, NC	Truck Driver Training (Smithfield)				

Added for this page: Ivy Tech's CCMA (South Bend listing; the listing's occupation code 11-2021 is an entry error and Medical Assistants is used), Metropolitan Community College's Pharmacy Technician, Eastern Florida State College's EMT-C, Pima Medical Institute's Phoenix Phlebotomy Technician, Eastern Iowa Community Colleges' CNC Machining (16 weeks, $3,120 tuition plus $500 supplies, the same program page as the approved CNC Entry-Level Technician), Central Texas College's Killeen Pharmacy Technician (a North Central Texas College listing in Gainesville was excluded), Weatherford College's Basic Machining (listing "Machining Manual & CNC," credential field "Basic Machining Certificate") Kilgore College's Electrical Power Lineman (listing "Electric Power Technology Certificate," described as Lineworker) and Iowa Western Community College's Emergency Medical Technician (Council Bluffs, 15 weeks; the listing's occupation code 25-1071 is an entry error and Emergency Medical Technicians is used). Johnston Community College has two listings with the same course description; the one titled Truck Driver Training and linked to the program page is used, and its outcomes are suppressed. The other, CDL Truck Driver Training, reports 35 percent completion and is named on the profile but not shown as the program's record. Blank cells are suppressed or below the size floor.

2. The course across North Carolina (NCCCS)

Source: North Carolina Community College System, **Some NCCCS WCE Course and Credential Combinations Potentially Eligible for Workforce Pell** (toolkit table, March 9, 2026), reproduced as published. Completion is the share of 2023-24 students earning A, B, C, D or P; wage match is the share of 2022-23 completers with a valid SSN found in state quarterly wage records about six months later; median earnings are for those matched completers, annualized by NCCCS. Completion is reported by course and primary credential; wage match and earnings are reported by course and repeat for every credential of a course. These are state definitions, not the federal standards. Each North Carolina program is paired with its course code (EMS4200 for EMT Basic, NAS3240 and NAS3241 for nurse aide levels I and II, ELT3018, FIP3030, WLD3106 with the Welding credential, BTC3200, PBT3022, TRA3607). Forsyth Tech's Fire Academy is paired with the full Firefighter Series (FIP3030).

3. Earnings in the same field (Census PSEO)

Source: **Census Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes**, release R2026Q2, earnings file. Rows: degree level 01 (certificates under one year), four-digit CIP, all graduating cohorts pooled, national employment geography, all industries. College rows are used where the college reports to PSEO and the cell is published; otherwise the state row (all reporting institutions in the state). Ivy Tech reports as 14 PSEO units and the campus behind its statewide unit is not documented, so Ivy Tech uses the state row. Earnings 1, 5 and 10 years after graduation, 25th, 50th and 75th percentiles, in 2023 dollars. PSEO covers for-credit completions reported to IPEDS, so it does not include noncredit courses, which most approved programs are; the badge says "similar programs," not "this

program.” Four-digit families are broader than one program; the page notes what else each holds (paramedic certificates in 51.09, police academy certificates in 43.01, welding and machining together in 48.05). Nebraska and Florida do not participate in PSEO; Arizona’s participation covers its public universities; North Carolina’s covers the UNC system, not its community colleges.

4. The job

Occupation. The approvals do not publish CIP or SOC codes. Each program’s six-digit CIP 2020 code is assigned from its title. Its SOC 2018 occupation is the one on the matched ETPL listing where that fits the title (Central Carolina’s BioWork listing names Biological Technicians, 19-4021, and the page uses it), otherwise the best title match among the occupations the **NCES CIP 2020 to SOC 2018 crosswalk** links to the CIP code.

Pay. **BLS Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics**, May 2025, state cross-industry estimates for the occupation: annual wages at the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th percentiles and employment, read from the all-data file. These describe every worker in the occupation, all ages and experience; new workers usually start near the lower percentiles. The state median for all occupations is shown for reference.

Openings and growth. **Projections Central** state long-term projections, 2024 to 2034 (state labor market agencies’ series, retrieved November 5, 2026): percent change in employment and average annual openings, which count both new jobs and replacements for workers who leave or change occupations. The state’s all-occupation change is shown for comparison.

AI exposure. The **Opportunity Data AI Exposure Index**, September 2026 release, scored from nine O*NET 31.0 work-activity and work-context ratings across three dimensions (digital work intensity, human contact intensity, physical task intensity). Composite 0 to 1, lower means harder for AI to perform. Tiers: AI-protected under 0.45, Moderate 0.45 to 0.60, AI-exposed 0.60 to 0.70, Highly exposed 0.70 and up. O*NET publishes no work-activity or work-context ratings for Emergency Medical Technicians (29-2042), so EMT programs are not scored; their profiles show Paramedics (29-2043) for reference. A score describes the occupation’s tasks, not a forecast of job losses.

High-school line. Median earnings of adults aged 25 to 34 with a high school diploma or GED and no college who worked and were not enrolled, in the program’s state, from the ACS 2019 to 2023 five-year PUMS in 2024 dollars (the state threshold in the federal do-no-harm earnings test for degree and certificate programs, 91 FR 40136). It is a reference point for a student, not a Workforce Pell test.

Limits

Figures come from different surveys, years and dollar bases, stated wherever they appear; the page asks readers to compare earnings within an evidence level. What this job pays (all workers in the occupation, not graduates of the program) is not adjusted for cost of living across states. Quarterly earnings times four overstates a year’s pay for anyone who did not work all year and understates it for anyone who started late in the quarter. Records for the program describe students before Workforce Pell and before any changes the college made for approval. Approval means the state certified, and the U.S. Department of Education accepted, that the program meets the federal requirements; it is not a guarantee of employment or earnings.

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The data dictionary, with the definition, source and unit of every column, is free with the page; the program profiles (CSV) are a $39 download. Build scripts: research/students-explorer/extract_oews.py, build_data.py (all joins, with

stops if an ETPL row, NCCCS row or PSEO cell moves), build_page.py and this file.

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Version 1.1, November 19, 2026: rights and reuse statement added; 1.0 was the first methodology note. Benazir Rowe, PhD, Opportunity Data.