Virtual Learning Strategist (VLS) Support for Electrical Apprentices

Saskatchewan Polytechnic, in collaboration with the National Electrical Trade Council (NETCO) through the OASIS (Online Apprentice Support Initiatives for Success) project, offers the Virtual Learning Strategist (VLS) program to support electrical apprentices, particularly those with learning disabilities or learning challenges. No formal diagnosis is needed to access to supports, apprentices who self identify and needing additional support can utilize the program.

The VLS program provides targeted, informal assessments to identify individual learning needs such as skill gaps, exam anxiety, or study habits. Based on these assessments, apprentices receive personalized learning plans, which may include tutoring, academic upgrading, remedial support, alternative learning formats, or referrals for formal accommodations. Supports are delivered in a flexible, online format to ensure accessibility across locations. Saskatchewan Polytechnic leads the development and delivery of online resources to support apprentices before and during training across Canada.

The online resources available to support apprentices were developed through funding from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and Union Training and Innovation Program (UTIP) and have no direct relation to the core apprenticeship programming, the resources are designed to complement apprenticeship program outcomes.

The online resources provide additional support and exposure to content in an easy to understand and accessible delivery mode, it includes interactive videos, images, and self review sections. To date, no apprentices in Saskatchewan have paid for this training, as it has been made available free of charge to both union and non-union apprentices due to the federal funding.

Under the contract, this support is provided to Saskatchewan apprentices for five years, ending in March 2026. After that time, the training will remain available, but a fee schedule will apply for those wishing to access the materials.

The goal of the VLS program is to reduce barriers to success and help apprentices complete their training.

For more information or to access the program, contact the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) to request a referral. For questions related to the online resources, please reach out to:

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