

Oconomowoc Utilities/WPPI Energy Lineworker Training Scholarship

Program purposes

- To encourage technical training for graduating high school seniors.
- To educate youth about careers in their own communities.
- To create an incentive for trained lineworkers to seek employment in WPPI Energy member municipal utilities.
- To provide WPPI Energy member municipal utilities with a pool of trained linemen.
- To inform customers about the benefits of owning municipal utility.

Eligibility guidelines

1. High school juniors or seniors may apply for the \$500 scholarship.
2. The student should be planning to attend in an Electrical Power Distribution program at one of five Wisconsin Technical Colleges that offer courses —

Blackhawk Technical College (Janesville)
Chippewa Valley Technical College (course held in Eau Claire)
Milwaukee Area Technical College
Moraine Park Technical College (course held in Beaver Dam)

The scholarship check will be awarded with proof of enrollment.

3. A letter of recommendation is requested from a teacher, counselor or employer that addresses the applicant's skills that are pertinent to the job (ex. manually dexterous; in good physical condition; willing to work at all heights and in all weather; able to comprehend and follow written instructions; safety conscious).
4. Deadline for submitting applications is **March 31, 2018**. The scholarship recipient will be announced in May.

***Oconomowoc Utilities/WPPI Energy
Lineworker Training Scholarship Application***

Name _____

Home address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone number _____

Name of legal guardian _____

Oconomowoc Utilities account information:

Name on account, billing address, account number:

Electrical Power Distribution program information:

Course selected, location, and/or intended plans

Recommendation attached:

Name, position, phone number

Please return this application to:

Greg Hoffmann

Oconomowoc Utilities

808 S. Worthington St.

Oconomowoc, WI 53066

For more information, contact the Oconomowoc Utilities at (262) 569-3282

Application Deadline: March 31, 2018.

A Career as an Electrical Lineworker

Quick Facts: Line Installers and Repairers

- 2015 Median Pay: \$61,430 per year \$29.53 per hour
- Typical Entry-Level Education: High school diploma or equivalent
- Work Experience in a Related Occupation: None
- On-the-job Training: Long-term on-the-job training
- Number of Jobs, 2014: 236,600
- Job Outlook, 2014-24: 6% (As fast as average)
- Employment Change, 2014-24: 13,700



Line installers and repairers often work in teams to install and fix cables and wires.

What Line Installers and Repairers Do

Line installers and repairers, also known as line workers, install or repair electrical power systems. Duties include:

- Install, maintain, or repair the power lines that move electricity
- Identify defective devices, voltage regulators, transformers, and switches
- Inspect and test power lines and auxiliary equipment
- String power lines between poles, towers, and buildings
- Climb poles and transmission towers and use truck-mounted buckets to get to equipment
- Operate power equipment when installing and repairing poles, towers, and lines
- Drive work vehicles to job sites
- Follow safety standards and procedures

Electrical power-line installers and repairers install and maintain the power grid—the network of power lines that moves electricity from generating plants to customers. They routinely work with high-voltage electricity, which requires extreme caution. The electrical current can range from hundreds of thousands of volts for long-distance transmission lines that make up the power grid to less than 10,000 volts for distribution lines that supply electricity to homes and businesses.

Line workers who maintain the interstate power grid work in crews that travel to locations throughout a large region to service transmission lines and towers. Workers employed by local utilities work mainly with lower voltage distribution lines, maintaining equipment such as transformers, voltage regulators, and switches. They also may work on traffic lights and street lights.

Work Environment

Line installers and repairers held about 236,600 jobs in 2014. The industries that employed the most line installers and repairers were as follows:

Wired telecommunications carriers: 26%

Electric power generation, transmission and distribution: 24%

Utility system construction: 20%

Electrical contractors and other wiring installation contractors: 12%

Local government, excluding education and hospitals: 7%

The work of line installers and repairers can be physically demanding. Line installers must be comfortable working at great heights and in confined spaces. Despite the help of bucket trucks, all line workers must be able to climb utility poles and transmission towers and balance while working on them.



Their work often requires that they drive utility vehicles, travel long distances, and work outdoors.

Line installers and repairers often must work under challenging weather conditions, such as in snow, wind, rain, and extreme heat and cold, in order to keep electricity flowing.

Injuries and Illnesses

Line workers encounter serious hazards on their jobs and must follow safety procedures to minimize danger. For example, workers must wear safety equipment when entering underground manholes and test for the presence of gas before going underground.

Specifically, electric power-line workers have hazardous jobs. A worker can be electrocuted if he or she comes in contact with a live cable on a high-voltage power line. When workers engage live wires, they use electrically insulated protective devices and tools to minimize their risk.

Power lines are typically higher than telephone lines, increasing the risk of severe injury from a fall. To prevent injuries, line installers use fall-protection equipment when working on poles or towers. Safety procedures and training have significantly reduced the danger for line workers. However, the occupation is still among the most dangerous. As a result, telecommunications and electrical line workers have a rate of injuries and illnesses that is higher than the national average.

Work Schedules

Although most work full time during regular business hours, some line installers and repairers must work evenings and weekends. In emergencies or after storms and other natural disasters, workers may have to work long hours for several days in a row.

How to Become a Line Installer or Repairer

A high school diploma or equivalent is typically required for entry-level positions, but most line installers and repairers need technical instruction and long-term on-the-job training to become proficient. Apprenticeships are also common.

Education

Most companies require line installers and repairers to have a high school diploma or equivalent. Employers prefer candidates with basic knowledge of algebra and trigonometry. In addition, technical knowledge of electricity or electronics obtained through military service, vocational programs, or community colleges can also be helpful.

Many community colleges offer programs in telecommunications, electronics, or electricity. Some programs work with local companies to offer 1-year certificates that emphasize hands-on field work.

More advanced 2-year associate's degree programs provide students with a broad knowledge of the technology used in telecommunications and electrical utilities. These programs offer courses in electricity, electronics, fiber optics, and microwave transmission.

Training

Electrical line installers and repairers often must complete apprenticeships or other employer training programs. These programs, which can last up to 3 years, combine on-the-job training with technical instruction and are sometimes administered jointly by the employer and the union representing the workers. For example, the Electrical Training Alliance offers apprenticeship programs in four specialty areas. The basic qualifications to enter an apprenticeship program are as follows:

- Minimum age of 18
- High school education or equivalent
- One year of algebra
- Qualifying score on an aptitude test
- Pass substance abuse screening



Most installers and repairers have a high school diploma and receive long-term on-the-job training.

Advancement

Entry-level line workers generally begin with an apprenticeship, which includes both classroom training and hands-on work experience. As they learn additional skills from more experienced workers, they may advance to more complex tasks. In time, experienced line workers advance to more sophisticated maintenance and repair positions in which they are responsible for increasingly large portions of the network.

After 3 to 4 years of working, qualified line workers reach the journey level. A journey-level line worker is no longer considered an apprentice and can perform most tasks without supervision. Journey-level line workers also may qualify for positions at other companies. Workers with many years of experience may become first-line supervisors or trainers.

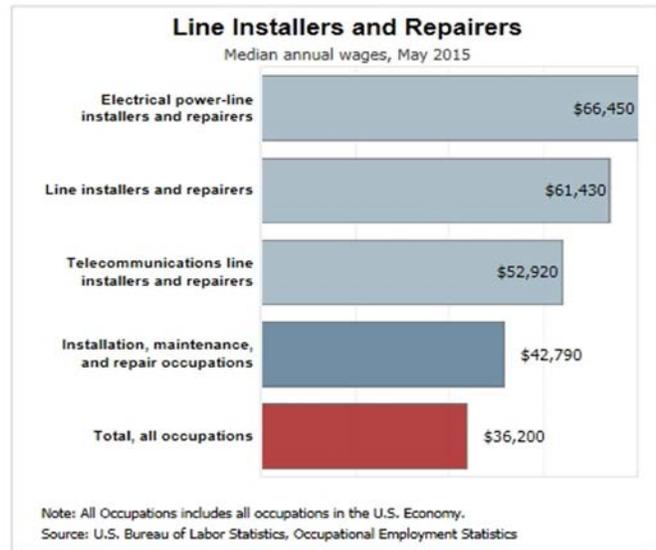
Important Qualities

- **Color vision.** Workers who handle electrical wires and cables must be able to distinguish colors because the wires and cables are often color coded.
- **Mechanical skills.** Line installers and repairers must have the knowledge and skills to repair or replace complex electrical and telecommunications lines and equipment.
- **Physical stamina.** Line installers and repairers often must climb poles and work at great heights with heavy tools and equipment. Therefore, installers and repairers should be able to work for long periods without tiring easily.
- **Physical strength.** Line installers and repairers must be strong enough to lift heavy tools, cables, and equipment on a regular basis.
- **Teamwork.** Because workers often rely on their fellow crew members for their safety, teamwork is critical.
- **Technical skills.** Line installers use sophisticated diagnostic equipment on circuit breakers, switches, and transformers. They must be familiar with electrical systems and the appropriate tools needed to fix and maintain them.
- **Troubleshooting skills.** Line installers and repairers must be able to diagnose problems in increasingly complex electrical systems and telecommunication lines.

Pay

The median annual wage for electrical power-line installers and repairers was \$66,450 in May 2015. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$36,000, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$95,990.

In May 2015, the median annual wages for line installers and repairers in the top industries in which they worked were as follows:



- Electric power generation, transmission and distribution \$71,050
- Wired telecommunications carriers 65,930
- Local government, excluding education and hospitals 61,950
- Utility system construction 49,440
- Electrical contractors and other wiring installation contractors 43,670

Although most work full time during regular business hours, some line installers and repairers may work evenings and weekends. In emergencies or after storms and other natural disasters, they may have to work long hours for several days in a row.