

SMaRTech Apprenticeship Program

Program summary — registered apprenticeship pathways across Orange County, California

Apprentices earn a paycheck from day one while a college training partner delivers the related instruction and employers supply paid on-the-job hours. SMaRTech is the featured program; additional pathways are enrolling or in development with colleges across the region.

Every SMaRTech apprenticeship is tuition-free. There are no program fees and no student debt — apprentices earn wages while they complete their related instruction.

Featured program

SMaRTech Apprenticeship

Now enrolling · Anaheim · Tuition-free

Related instruction: North Orange Continuing Education

Paid registered apprenticeship for non-electrical solar and EV charging maintenance technicians, with related instruction delivered by a college training partner and SMaRTech certification at completion.

RELATED COLLEGE COURSEWORK

- Solar pathway is live at NOCE as the SMaRTech: Solar Maintenance Technician Certificate — tuition-free, 2–3 terms, Pass/No Pass.
- Core courses: SOLR 320 Solar Cleaning and Assessment (54 hrs), ELET 178 OSHA 10 for Construction (32 hrs), BUSN 120 Project Management (18 hrs), OTEC 100 Office Professionalism and Workplace Skills (24 hrs).
- Required elective: ENTR 100 Entrepreneurship (54 hrs) or ENTR 115 Business Basics: Law and Accounting (45 hrs).
- Eligibility: 18 or older, NOCE admissions application, and online general orientation completed at least 24 hours before registering.
- Outcomes: Solar Maintenance Technician, Solar Technician Assistant, Field Service Technician — \$29–\$30/hr average in Orange County.
- EVSE pathway is in development and will follow the same not-for-credit structure once published.

SMaRTech apprenticeship tracks

Track A — Solar Maintenance & Reporting Technician

Keep photovoltaic arrays clean, inspected, documented, and performing — the physical, non-electrical side of solar operations and maintenance.

- Solar panel cleaning
- Visual & mechanical inspections
- Array assessment
- Site documentation & drone imaging
- Performance reporting
- Preventive maintenance
- Customer reporting & asset management

Track B — EVSE Maintenance & Reporting Technician

Maintain the electric vehicle charging network: inspection, cleaning, uptime monitoring fundamentals, and the reporting that keeps sites accountable.

- Physical charger inspection
- Non-electrical maintenance
- Site assessment
- OCPP monitoring fundamentals
- Documentation & reporting
- Cleaning & preventive maintenance
- Asset inventory & customer service

Now enrolling

Cook

Now enrolling · Tustin, CA · Tuition-free

Related instruction: Saddleback College (ATEP)

A planned culinary apprenticeship combining paid on-the-job training in commercial kitchens with related instruction at Saddleback College's Advanced Technology & Education Park (ATEP).

RELATED COLLEGE COURSEWORK

- Entry point: Introduction to Culinary Arts (Certificate of Achievement & AS) — sanitation, foundational cooking and baking, operations, and production.
- Basic Culinary Skills (non-credit Certificate of Completion) for fast entry into cafeteria, restaurant, and food-prep roles.
- Stacks into Advanced Culinary Arts (38.0 units) covering culinary principles, baking fundamentals, catering and banquets, nutrition, and a Cooperative Work Experience internship.
- Trains in a 20,000 sq ft LEED Gold, all-electric facility with four commercial kitchen labs, a student-run 70-seat restaurant, coffee bar, and culinary garden.
- All culinary programs are Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC).

Hospitality Management

Now enrolling · Tustin, CA · Tuition-free

Related instruction: Saddleback College (ATEP)

A planned hospitality management apprenticeship pairing paid work in lodging, events, and food-service operations with college-delivered related instruction at ATEP.

RELATED COLLEGE COURSEWORK

- Draws on the ATEP catering and events coursework: Special Events and Catering Management, Food and Beverage Operations, Catering and Banquets, and Personal Chef.
- Catering (Certificate of Achievement) prepares students for catering operations careers, including owning a catering business.
- Real-world operations experience through the student-run 70-seat restaurant and internship placements.

Automotive Service Technician (EV focus)

Now enrolling · Tustin, CA · Tuition-free

Related instruction: Saddleback College (ATEP)

A planned apprenticeship focused on electric vehicle service and maintenance, combining paid shop hours with related instruction at Saddleback College (ATEP).

RELATED COLLEGE COURSEWORK

- Automotive Electric Vehicle Technician certificate covers hybrid, alternative-fuel, and full-electric vehicle systems.
- Stack path: Automotive Technician Fundamentals → Automotive Electric Vehicle Technician → Alternative Fuel Vehicle Specialist (AS or Certificate of Achievement).
- Alternative Fuel Vehicle Specialist adds hydrogen fuel-cell and CNG/LPG propulsion systems and their maintenance requirements.
- Autonomous and Advanced Vehicle Systems certificate adds ADAS, LIDAR, radar, cameras, and telematics — qualifying graduates for the ASE L4 exam.
- Careers: Hybrid Technician, EV Technician, CNG/LPG Vehicle Technician, ADAS Technician.

Automotive Service Technician

Now enrolling · Tustin, CA · Tuition-free

Related instruction: Saddleback College (ATEP)

A planned automotive service technician apprenticeship covering diagnostics, maintenance, and repair, with related instruction at Saddleback College (ATEP).

RELATED COLLEGE COURSEWORK

- Foundation: Automotive Technician Fundamentals (AUTO 100, 101, 207) — shop safety, tools, repair orders, automotive electrical, measurement, and shop operations; qualifies students for the ASE G1 exam.
- Stackable certificates: Automotive Chassis Systems, Automotive Suspension Technician, Automotive Engine Diagnostics Technician, and Automotive Engine Repair Technician.
- Larger awards (AS or Certificate of Achievement): Automotive Chassis Specialist, Automotive Engine Performance Specialist, and Automotive Engine Service Specialist.
- Engine Performance Specialist graduates qualify to sit for the California Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) Smog License exams.
- Cooperative Work Experience internships run through Audi, Jaguar, Land Rover, and Subaru dealerships plus independent shops.
- Trains in a 30,000 sq ft shop with 14 lifts and service bays, a radar-calibration bay, and a 15,000 sq ft instructional vehicle yard.

In the pipeline

Electrical Technician (ET)

In development · Orange, CA · Tuition-free

Related instruction: Santiago Canyon College

An advanced continuation of SMaRTech focused on electrician training for Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE). SMaRTech completers enter the ET pathway at Level 2, building on their clean-energy maintenance foundation with electrical installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting fundamentals. Related instruction is delivered by Santiago Canyon College.

Infectious Prevention Specialist

In development · Anaheim · Tuition-free

Related instruction: North Orange Continuing Education

A planned SMaRTech pathway preparing technicians to build and maintain infection-control containment during construction in occupied healthcare facilities. North Orange Continuing Education delivers the related instruction (RSI); completing the RSI coursework places the apprentice at Level 1. The five-level field qualification is then advanced through on-the-job training (OJT) delivered by TFR — from jobsite infection-control awareness to lead containment installer.

RELATED COLLEGE COURSEWORK

- Related instruction (RSI) — IPS320 Infectious Prevention Capstone (54 hrs, taught by TFR), ELET 178 OSHA 10 for Construction (32 hrs), BUSN 120 Project Management (18 hrs), OTEC 100 Office Professionalism and Workplace Skills (24 hrs), plus required elective ENTR 100 Entrepreneurship (54 hrs) or ENTR 115 Business Basics: Law and Accounting (45 hrs).
- Completing the NOCE RSI coursework places the apprentice at Level 1 of the TFR field qualification.

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING (OJT)

- Level 1 — Healthcare Jobsite Awareness: infection-control fundamentals, ICRA, patient and occupied-area protection, clean vs. dirty areas, hospital conduct, and basic PPE.
- Level 2 — Containment Installer: poly and rigid containment systems, floor-to-deck barriers, penetration sealing, temporary doors, sticky mats, and anteroom construction.
- Level 3 — Negative Air & HEPA Technician: HEPA-filtered negative-air machines, air scrubbers, pressure differential, smoke testing, and loss-of-pressure response.
- Level 4 — Advanced Healthcare Containment Installer: occupied-hospital construction, operating-room environments, multi-stage anterooms, debris containment, and breach response.
- Level 5 — Lead Containment Installer: field leadership — preconstruction containment planning, complete installation, pressure verification, documentation, and emergency breach recovery.
- Field qualification documents company training and field competency; it complements (not replaces) ASHE, UBC-ICRA, or CICTI certification.

Related instruction by program

Program	Related instruction provider	Status
SMaRTech Apprenticeship	North Orange Continuing Education — Anaheim	Now enrolling
Electrical Technician (ET)	Santiago Canyon College — Orange, CA	In development
Infectious Prevention Specialist	North Orange Continuing Education — Anaheim	In development
Cook	Saddleback College (ATEP) — Tustin, CA	Now enrolling
Hospitality Management	Saddleback College (ATEP) — Tustin, CA	Now enrolling
Automotive Service Technician (EV focus)	Saddleback College (ATEP) — Tustin, CA	Now enrolling
Automotive Service Technician	Saddleback College (ATEP) — Tustin, CA	Now enrolling

Training partner campuses

Santiago Canyon College (SCC)

8045 E. Chapman Avenue, Orange, CA 92869 · admissions@sccollege.edu · (714) 628-4900

Santiago Canyon College is the training partner scoping the related instruction for the Electrical Technician (ET) apprenticeship pathway. A Rancho Santiago Community College District campus, SCC brings credit-bearing career education in electrical, construction, and advanced manufacturing trades to the ET pipeline in development.

- Home of the Electrical Technician (ET) apprenticeship pathway (in development)
- Part of the Rancho Santiago Community College District, accredited by the ACCJC
- Credit coursework and stackable certificates in electrical installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting
- Transfer-ready career education aligned to regional employer demand

North Orange Continuing Education (NOCE)

1830 W. Romneya Drive, 2nd Floor, Anaheim, CA 92801 · starhelp@noce.edu · (714) 808-4679

NOCE is the training partner campus delivering the tuition-free, not-for-credit related instruction behind the SMaRTech solar and EVSE maintenance pathways. As one of California's largest noncredit institutions, it anchors the featured apprenticeship and the earn-while-you-learn model in Anaheim.

- Home of the SMaRT Tech: Solar Maintenance Technician Certificate — tuition-free, 2–3 terms, Pass/No Pass
- Tuition-free, noncredit instruction open to adults 18+ with no prior degree required
- Related instruction in solar maintenance, OSHA 10, project management, and workplace skills
- EVSE maintenance pathway following the same structure (in development)

Saddleback@ATEP

1634 Valencia Avenue, Tustin, CA 92782 · scatep@saddleback.edu · (949) 348-6401

Saddleback College's satellite campus at the Advanced Technology & Education Park delivers hands-on Automotive Technology and Culinary Arts training in purpose-built, sustainably designed facilities — the related-instruction home for the ATEP pathways now enrolling.

- 30,000 sq ft automotive shop with 14 lifts, a radar-calibration bay, and four emerging-technology classrooms
- 20,000 sq ft LEED Gold culinary facility with four kitchen labs and a student-run 70-seat restaurant
- 252 kW of rooftop solar, all-electric heating and cooling, natural ventilation
- Stackable certificates that ladder from entry-level to specialist awards and AS degrees

Contacts

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