



NEW MAINERS RESOURCE CENTER



MAINE ELECTRICIANS LICENSING GUIDE

FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED PROFESSIONALS

nmrcmaine.org



WHO WE ARE

The New Mainers Resource Center (NMRC) is a state-wide program serving internationally trained professionals (ITPs). We offer resources to assist New Mainers in overcoming barriers to entering the US workforce. Our services include: career advising, licensing and credential support, job readiness skills, and networking with employers, colleges and universities.

The Purpose of this Guide

This guide provides internationally trained electricians with guidance on pursuing pathways to training, job opportunities, and licensure to work as an electrician in the state of Maine.

For additional information or assistance from the New Mainers Resource Center contact:



nmrcmaine.org
nmrc@portlandschools.org

DATA CURRENCY DISCLAIMER: Labor market, wage, and cost information presented in this guide is based on data collected in August 2025. Employment conditions, licensing requirements, wages, and associated costs may change over time and may vary by employer, region, or individual circumstances. This guide is intended as an informational resource and does not guarantee employment, wages, or licensing outcomes.

CONTENTS

- 1** Frequently Asked Questions
- 3** Overview of the Process
- 4** Electrical Licensure Options
- 8** Taking Your Licensure Exam
- 9** Coursework and Educational Programs

OPTIONS FOR INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED ELECTRICIANS IN MAINE

Welcome! Becoming a licensed electrician in Maine can be a complex process.

To start, review the graphic below, designed to provide an overview of the professional licenses available to individuals with varied levels of professional and educational experience. You will notice that each level of licensure requires additional work experience and education. The following pages of this guide will help you understand these steps and important details along the way.



1

OBTAIN A HELPER ELECTRICIAN LICENSE

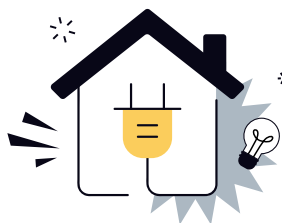
Obtain a Helper License (renewed every two years). Must be employed by and under the direct supervision of a Master Electrician.



2

COMPLETE BACKGROUND CHECK AND PASS STATE EXAM

All licenses beyond Helper require a background check and passing a state exam.



3

OBTAIN LIMITED ELECTRICIAN LICENSE

Work hours and course requirements vary by license type.

Courses required: 225 hrs, including: Basic Electricity I & II; Controls I; Blueprint Reading; Intro to NEC.



4

OBTAIN JOURNEYMAN ELECTRICIAN LICENSE

Work required: 8,000 hrs (includes previous hrs).

Courses required: Transformers; Motors; Controls II; Math; Electronics; plus any 3 from trade/non-trade lists.



5

OBTAIN MASTER ELECTRICIAN LICENSE

Work required: 12,000 hrs (includes previous hrs).

Courses required: 126 hrs of non-trade-related, degree-type courses.

Some courses or certifications may be dually rated (count toward multiple requirements)



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LICENSURE OPTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I need a professional license to work as an electrician in Maine?

Yes, every person working professionally on electrical projects of any scale in the state of Maine must have a license provided by the **Maine Electricians' Examining Board**.

2. What type of electrical license can I apply for?

The five types of electrician licenses offered in Maine are listed below. What level of licensure you can obtain will be based on your previous education and documented professional experience. Each level of licensure includes requirements in three specific areas:

- Supervised hours of **work experience** with a licensed electrician (2,000 hours = 1 year)
- Completion of required **educational training** for the desired license (see required education section of license descriptions below)
- Passing a **state-issued professional exam** for the license in question (see [Taking Your Licensure Exam](#) section)

Helper Electrician

No experience or specialized education is required to begin working under the direct supervision of a licensed electrician. The Helper Electrician License **does not require a state exam**.

Apprentice Electrician

No experience or specialized education is required.

An apprentice must commit to a 4–5 year apprenticeship program.

An apprentice must meet supervised work hours, education, and testing requirements by the end of the training program to obtain a Journeyman's license.

Limited Electrician

Eight specialty licenses are available to applicants who have completed 2,000–4,000 hours of qualified work experience (the number of hours required is dependent on the license specialty) and the required education.

Specialties include: Water Pumps, Outdoor Signs, Gasoline Dispensing, Traffic Signals, House Wiring, Refrigeration, Low Energy, and Crane Technician.

Journeyman Electrician

Minimum of 4,000 to 8,000 hours of qualified work experience, depending on the training environment and required educational courses.

Master Electrician

4,000 hours of qualified work experience as a Journeyman Electrician or 12,000 total hours of other qualified experience and required educational courses.

3. How do I use my educational and professional background to support obtaining an electrician’s license in Maine?

To have international training or professional experience considered for your licensure application by the Electricians’ Examining Board, you must:

1. Have your **educational transcripts translated and evaluated** by a **NACES-approved agency**
2. Provide a comprehensive written **summary of international professional experience**, including:
 - Copies of any professional licenses held outside of the United States
 - A detailed overview of international work experience, including letters of reference whenever possible
 - Any documents detailing specialized professional training
3. Create an account with the **Maine Electricians’ Examining Board**:
 - **Apply for a Helper License**
 - Submit all of the information listed above to Maine Electricians’ Examining Board **electrician.board@maine.gov**

4. Where can I receive training to pursue my career as an electrician?

Training to become a licensed electrician in Maine is available through a variety of sources:

- Maine’s Community College System degree and certificate programs
- Private educational training organizations
- Workforce Training/Apprenticeship programs, such as those offered by Maine’s electrical trade unions and programs affiliated with Maine’s contractors and construction industry.

5. What jobs will I be eligible for with a Helper or Apprentice Electrician license?

In Maine, virtually all electrical-related jobs require some type of license. However, the Helper and Apprentice Electrician licenses have limited restrictions and allow you to begin work in the electrical field quickly. Both small and large commercial and residential contracting companies frequently hire for both positions. The work often involves assisting lead electricians, installers, or project managers with electric installations.

Registered apprenticeships offer the opportunity to “earn while you learn” as you work under the supervision of experienced tradespeople on real job sites and take classes with experienced instructors who will help you to understand the ideas and best practices for your work in the field.



Overview of the Process

If you were an electrician before coming to the US and are seeking an electrician's license in Maine to resume your career, you will need to apply to the **Maine Electricians' Examining Board** for licensure. Obtaining your electrician's license requires submitting an application and supporting documentation of educational training and supervised work experience to the Maine Board.

- Applicants may apply for one of five levels of licensure: Helper, Apprentice, Limited, Journeyman, or Master Electrician. Each level of license requires an increasing level of qualifying educational training and supervised work experience.
- Once the review by the Board is complete, an applicant will either be issued a professional license or the Board will provide information about additional requirements.

1 DOCUMENTING YOUR EDUCATION

You will need to have completed specific electrical courses and training to apply for any level of licensure higher than the entry-level Helper and Apprentice licenses. You must provide transcripts, translations, and **NACES**-approved evaluations to the Maine Electricians' Examining Board for review of your educational background.

2 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (NEC) COURSE

To be licensed beyond the Helper or Apprentice licenses, all applicants must have completed a current 45-hour National Electric Code course.

3 DOCUMENTING YOUR WORK EXPERIENCE

Each applicant for an electrician's license beyond the Helper and Apprentice licenses will need to demonstrate a specified amount of supervised work hours as a licensed electrician, ranging from 4,000 hours to 12,000 hours (roughly 2–6 years of supervised work experience). You will need to provide documentation that you have worked the required number of hours under the supervision of a qualified electrician for each specific license. All supporting documents must be translated into English.

4 PASSING AN ELECTRICIAN'S EXAM

Once the Board approves your education and you have met the work requirements needed for a license, you can take the exam. You will need to be familiar with the US National Electrical Code and have the English proficiency to pass the multiple-choice exam with a score of at least 70%.



Electrical Licensure Options

Five different licenses are available to individuals seeking to become licensed electricians in Maine. Two entry-level licenses (Helper and Apprentice) are available for applicants with **no professional or educational experience**. Three professional-level licenses (Limited, Journeyman, and Master) are available and allow license holders to work **independently within the scope of each license**.



ENTRY-LEVEL

Helper Electrician License

A Helper Electrician makes electrical installations under the direct supervision of a Limited, Journeyman, or Master Electrician. Many licensed electricians hire Helper Electricians for entry-level positions to support their project work.

This option requires no experience or educational background to start.

A Helper Electrician can earn the work experience required to qualify for the next available electricians license (Limited), which requires 4,000 hours of experience or roughly two years on the job.



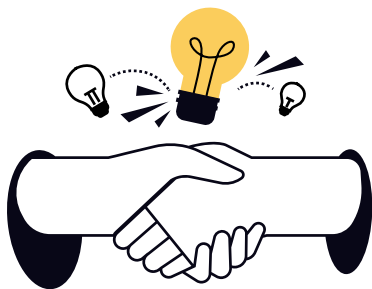
ENTRY-LEVEL

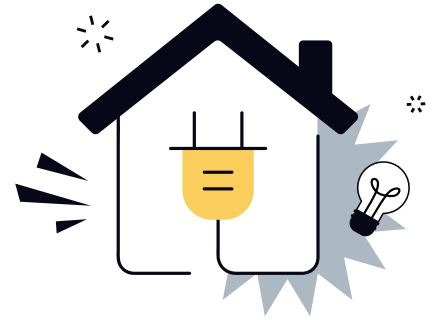
Apprentice Electrician License

An Apprentice Electrician commits to a 4–5-year program to learn the trade of an electrician under the direct supervision of a licensed Limited, Journeyman, or Master Electrician. Apprenticeships offer the opportunity for the apprentice to earn their Journeyman Electrician license at the conclusion of the program.

Apprenticeships can be offered through regional trade unions, construction groups and associations, or private businesses.

Apprenticeships may require qualifications for English proficiency, math, and the National Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (NJATC) Aptitude Test as part of the application process.





PROFESSIONAL-LEVEL

Limited Electrician License

A Limited Electrician is licensed to make electrical installations limited to the type specified by the individual license.

Limited licenses are issued for the following subcategories: **Low Energy, Gasoline Dispensing, House Wiring, Outdoor Signs, Refrigeration, Traffic Signals, Water Pumps, and Crane Technicians.**

Each subcategory listed above has its own unique education and work hour requirements. You can find the details for each category at [Maine Limited Electrician Category Details](#).

EXAMPLE

Limited Residential House Wiring License



Required Hours of Experience: The state of Maine requires 4,000 hours of experience (about 2 years on average) under the employment of a Master Electrician to sit for your exam. A minimum of 2,000 of those hours must be in residential house wiring in order to sit for the exam.



Required Education: The state of Maine requires the following education in order to qualify to sit for your license (each of these courses are 45 hours, equal to 3 credit hours if taken through an accredited institution):

- Basic Electricity I
- Basic Electricity II
- Blueprint Reading
- Controls I
- National Electrical Code



Benefits: This license will allow the worker who wants to become a Journeyman Electrician to have an initial license, allowing them to work alone on projects without supervision. This license allows the worker to pull permits and do “side work” if desired. You are permitted to have employees working for you within the scope of your license.



Limitations: This license will ONLY allow the electrician to work on projects within their licensure category. If working under the supervision of a more senior licensed electrician, the hours will count towards the next licensure. Additionally, if the worker desires to continue on and get their Journeyman license, the worker must maintain their Helper License and remain employed by a Master Electrician while obtaining the additional hours required. Working on your own does not count toward the hours required to sit for your Journeyman exam.



PROFESSIONAL-LEVEL

Journeyman Electrician License

A Journeyman Electrician is licensed to make electrical installations in the employment of a Master Electrician, Limited Electrician or a private electrical company.

Required Hours of Experience: The state of Maine requires 8,000 hours of experience (about 4 years on average) under the employment of a Master Electrician to sit for your exam.

Required Education: The state of Maine requires the following education in order to qualify to sit for your Journeyman license (each of these courses are 45-hours):

- Basic Electricity I
- Basic Electricity II
- Blueprint Reading
- Controls I
- National Electrical Code
- An additional 126 hours of education in trade-related OR degree-related materials
- Construction Math (or equivalent)
- Motors
- Transformers
- Controls II
- Electronics I

Benefits: This license is the goal for many electricians. It will allow the electrician to work without supervision (while under the employment of a Master Electrician) on residential, commercial and industrial projects. The pay will be higher and opportunities greater than those of a Limited Electrician.

Limitations: This license will not allow for “side work” which is conducted outside of the employment of a Master Electrician. All work conducted as a Journeyman must be conducted under the employment of a Master Electrician.

Pathways to a Journeyman License



Pathway #1: Graduate from a Maine community college electrical program and complete 4,000 hours of electrical installations under the supervision of a Master Electrician.



Pathway #2: Complete 8,000 hours of electrical installations and complete a 576-hour course of study as part of a Board-approved or Department of Labor apprenticeship program while holding an Apprentice License.



Pathway #3: Complete 8,000 hours of electrical installations and a 576-hour course of study while holding a Helper License.





PROFESSIONAL-LEVEL Master Electrician License

A Master Electrician is licensed to install electrical wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures and other electrical equipment.

Required Hours of Experience: The state of Maine requires an electrician to obtain their Journeyman license and then continue to work under a Master Electrician for an additional 4,000 hours in this role (about 2 years on average) to sit for the exam.

Required Education: The state of Maine requires the following education in order to qualify to sit for the exam (each of these courses are 45-hour courses):

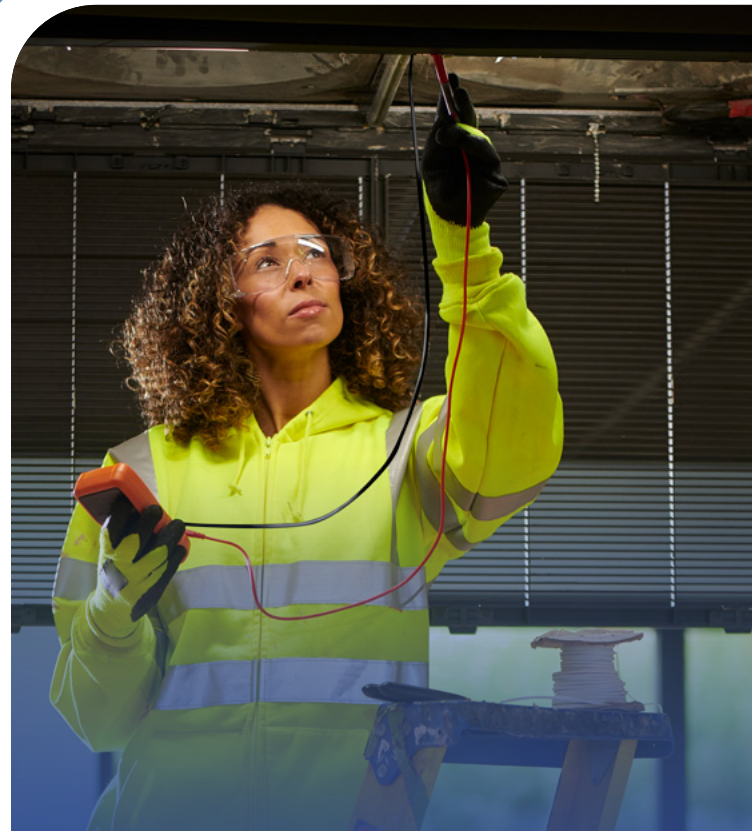
- Basic Electricity I
- Basic Electricity II
- Blueprint Reading
- Controls I
- National Electrical Code
- Construction Math (or equivalent)
- Motors
- Transformers
- Controls II
- Electronics I
- An additional 126 hours of education in degree-related materials

NOTICE: There is a difference in courses here. If a Journeyman takes all trade-related courses and then seeks to become a Master Electrician, there are additional degree-related courses that must be met.



Benefits: This license is unlimited in scope. You are permitted to work on all electrical installations and have employees under your employment.

Limitations: Only those governing laws which apply to all electricians and installations.



Taking Your Licensure Exam

Once the Maine Electricians' Examining Board has determined that your education and experience qualify you to apply for a specific license level, you will need to schedule the appropriate electrician's license exam. **Prov Inc.** administers the exams for the state of Maine.

- Review the **Maine Electricians' Examining Board Candidate Information Bulletin** for directions about the specific test you will be taking, test day requirements, and preparation.
- Exams are offered remotely or at test centers in Auburn, Bangor, and Machias.
- The exam will cost **\$65–\$90**, depending on the exam required.
- The exam is in English and is computer-based, but no computer or typing experience is necessary.
- You will be given verbal instructions as well as an interactive tutorial before testing.
- The exam is an open-book format with limited reference material permitted.
- Exam structure:
 - Limited Electrician exam—time and questions vary based on sub-license category.
 - Journeyman Electrician exam—3 hours with 80 multiple-choice questions.
 - Master Electrician exam—4 hours with 100 multiple-choice questions.
- If you don't pass, you can retake the exam after waiting 24 hours.
- You have up to 2 years to take and pass the exam once approved.
- There is no limit to how many times you can take the exam.
- If you do not take or pass the exam within 2 years of Board approval, you must reapply as a new applicant.

To pass the exam, you will need a score of 70% or higher. Scores are available immediately after taking the exam.

Applying for your license after passing the exam



Submit the licensing application and the fee of **\$150**. Your exam score will be automatically sent to the Board from Prov Inc.



While there are no set processing times, your application will be reviewed only if it is complete. You can check online to view the status of your application.

Coursework and Educational Programs

If you are missing educational coursework to apply for the license you are seeking, you will need to take and pass those courses before obtaining your license. Below are programs that offer electrical degrees, certificates, and individual courses required to obtain licensure in Maine. Contact these institutions directly to gather further details about course offerings and how to choose the best opportunity for your education.

Maine Community College Programs

- **Eastern Maine Community College (EMCC):** Offers a full-time Electricians Technology Program that meets licensing requirements and a part-time option.
- **Central Maine Community College (CMCC):** Provides an Electromechanical Technology program with an Associate's degree and certificate option.
- **Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC):** Offers an Electrical Technology program with Associate's and certificate/diploma options, often with a hybrid format.
- **Northern Maine Community College (NMCC):** Features an **Electrical Construction & Maintenance** program focusing on installation and system planning.
- **Southern Maine Community College (SMCC):** Provides an Electrician Technology Certificate Course with hybrid learning options available.
- **Washington County Community College (WCCC):** Offers a certificate or diploma for electricians.
- **York County Community College (YCCC):** Provides an Electrician Technology Program.

Maine Electrical Institute (Portland)

This program offers the coursework needed to obtain a Journeyman Electrician license and allows for single-subject classes. Many courses are taught online and through self-paced models. To be eligible for enrollment, you must have a high school diploma or equivalency diploma such as a HiSET.

45-Hour National Electrical Code (NEC) Course

To apply for a Maine electrician license, you must have completed a 45-hour NEC Course that the Maine Electricians' Examining Board approves. Courses can be completed online or in the classroom. To find a list of approved course providers and courses:

- Go to the **Maine Electricians' Examining Board website**.
- In the Content Area Box, choose the 45-hour NEC Code course and hit search. A list of courses and course providers will come up.



121 York Street
Bangor, ME 04401

(207) 941-6316
bangoradulthood.org



145 Birch Street
Lewiston, ME 04240

(207) 784-2928
lewiston.maineadulted.org



14 Locust Street
Portland, ME 04103

(207) 842-4602
portlandadulted.org