



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

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MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UI FIELD OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, CAREER CENTER FIELD OPERATIONS  
DIRECTOR, UITCC DIRECTORS, UITCC MANAGERS, AREA DIRECTORS & WALK-  
IN CENTER MANAGERS

**FROM:** KEN OWENS  
DIRECTOR OF UI BENEFITS

**SUBJECT:** UI ELIGIBILITY FOR ENROLLEES IN APPRENTICE TRAINING PROGRAMS

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 19, 2013

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Apprentice Standards (DAS) is responsible for promoting the development of training in skilled occupations and related training policies and practices used by employers, unions, and other organizations.

Any apprentice who is participating in a DAS-approved apprentice training program, and who is otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits, is eligible to receive such benefits for any week during which he or she is otherwise unemployed. Such participants are not subject to disqualification pursuant to M. G. L. chapter 151A, §24(b), and its requirements relating to the individual's availability for work or active search for work. They also are not subject to disqualification pursuant to §25(c) for any refusal to accept an offer of suitable work.

The DAS issues a mandatory identification card (Apprentice Photo ID) to approved apprenticeship training program participants. When appropriate, a copy of the Apprentice Photo ID may be requested from the claimant to verify the status of the individual or program.

Applications for training approval pursuant to M. G. L. chapter 151A, §30, are not necessary. Apprentice training programs are typically conducted on a short-term, intermittent basis. A participant may, for example, attend training for several periods of two-weeks each over a period of months or years..

Apprentice training program participants often receive a stipend to defray costs associated with their participation in the training program. Such costs may include travel, lodging, meals, equipment, materials, or other expenses incurred by participants. Such stipends are not considered to be earnings and need not be reported by the individual when filing a continued claim for benefits.

**INQUIRIES:** Please contact the UI Policy and Performance Department at 617-626-6422 with any questions you may have regarding this memorandum.