



Commonly Asked Questions about Workforce Investment Act Training Services

Q: What is WIA?

WIA stands for Workforce Investment Act. WIA was established in 1998 to prepare youth, adults and dislocated workers for entry and re-entry into the workforce. WIA training funds are designed to serve laid – off individuals, older youth and adults who are in need of training to enter or re-enter the labor market.

Q: How do I obtain additional information regarding WIA Training?

Customer should call and schedule an appointment for the WIA Orientation at 404/687-3400.

Q: How long can my training last?

WIA may be approved for short or long – term training for up to 2 years. Programs should not exceed 104 weeks (2 years). Exceptions to this policy may be approved on a case by case basis and requests should include evidence that financial support is available during extended training periods. Applicants must be accepted into the specific occupational skills training program of their choice. While the emphasis in career education is on specialized offerings, each degree/certificate program includes a selection of courses (Prerequisites) from an approved core of general education; these approved core courses (prerequisites) will be included in the customer’s Individual Training Account funding. Extended critical shortage healthcare curricula will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Can I continue to receive unemployment insurance while in training?

Yes! As a dislocated worker you will be given a special claimant trainee status while you’re in an approved training program. This means that you may continue to draw unemployment insurance while you are in full-time training (full-time as defined by the school). Please note that you may exhaust unemployment insurance before you finish training if you select a training program longer than your employment benefits are scheduled to last.

Q: Can I attend any school or training program I wish?

The school and the training program must be on the Georgia Statewide Eligible Provider List and must be approved by the local Workforce boards. Training Providers and programs are determined eligible based on the Metro Area Job Outlook and Demand Occupations.

Q: Why do I need to take a reading and math assessment?

The reading and math assessments help us determine that the student has the proper basic skills in order to successfully complete the training program.

Q: Will I have to apply for a loan to supplement WIA?

WIA discourages customers from taking out loans. You will be required to apply for Pell and Hope Grants. A list of additional financial aid sources is available.

Q: Will WIA pay for any training that I wish to take?

WIA will not pay for entertainment careers and others careers which do not lead to a specific job after training, or careers that are in declining industries. Occupational skills training is provided in demand occupations for industries that are stable or growing. Skills training will not be provided in declining industries. Presently, skills training is only provided for jobs and careers where hourly rates and salaries are paid. Totally commission, fee-based careers such as real estate, Cosmetology, Massage therapy and nail technicians are not approved for funding. List of additional sources of financial aid are available for clients who wish to pursue these careers. Short-term certification and exam preparation courses are offered based on individual need. There are also limits on the amount of funding available for training.

Q: I have been out of school for many years. Do you have staff who can help me adjust to returning to school?

Yes! A career Advisor will be assigned to work with you throughout your training and until you find a job. You should inform your Career Advisor when you are having problems, either personal or academic, which may interfere with your training. Advisors are experienced with assisting customers in getting the help they need when they need it.

Q: I have a bachelor's degree. Will WIA pay for me to receive a master's degree?

Yes, but only if you do not possess the skills needed to obtain a job in the present job market. If approved, the advanced degree must lead to a job in a growth occupation.

Q: What are some of the training programs that are most frequently funded by WIA?

Some of the most popular programs include: Clerical and office technology, accounting, advanced computer technology, industrial maintenance, LPN, registered nurse, electronics, computer and office assistant, radiology technician and teacher certification.

Q: Can you help me to choose a new career?

Yes! We have experienced Career Advisors who can help you research labor market information, provide interest and aptitude assessments, schedule computerized self-help inventories and variety of tools to assist you in planning your next career move.

For more information, please contact:

Dekalb Workforce Development
320 Church Street
Decatur, GA 30030
404-687--3400
www.dekalbworkforce.org