

Full Time 2025 - 2026

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: There is a real demand for skilled welders in Alberta. If you enjoy building things and working with your hands, a welding career may be for you! To work as a welder in Alberta, you must be a registered apprentice, or a certified journeyman. Further Educational Opportunities for the Welder Apprenticeship program are: First Period, Second Period, and Third Period. Journeyman Welders often gain additional expertise; subsequent training can lead to B-pressure certification, Canadian Welding Bureau Certification, and endorsements for specialty metals and processes.

PROGRAM OF STUDY:

PISC0100	Industrial Safety Certification
WETM0150	Trade Math
WEWP0140	Wire Processes
WPCM0100	Workplace Communications
WPLB0160	Practical Shop Labs
WPRC0100	Employment Practicum
WPSF0110	Workplace Safety
WTPM0130	Welding Technology and Properties of Metals
WMAW0120	Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Welders are employed in a variety of industries including vessel or structural steel assembly, pipeline construction, commercial construction, industrial construction, steel fabrication and heavy equipment repair. Employment prospects for welders change with seasonal and economic climates. Journeyman wage rates vary, but generally range from \$25 to \$40 an hour plus benefits. Experienced welders may advance to positions such as welding inspector, welding foreman or supervisor, or plant supervisor. Some open their own repair shops, or work as portable rig welders who contract out their services.

TRANSFERABILITY: Students must achieve a minimum of 65% cumulative weighted average for the program's courses with no course below 50%, and a final exam mark 65% or higher in order to achieve successful completion for AIT's standards. Please note: If you choose to challenge your AIT exam you must receive a 70% passing mark on the exam to successfully pass that period of training. Upon successful completion of all core courses, Pre-Employment students are eligible to write the 1st period apprentice exam with AIT.

PROGRAM DELIVERY: Traditional classroom setting with shop and lab demonstrations.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Minimum Requirements: English 10-2, Math 10-3, or a passing mark in all 5 General Education Development (GED) tests or passing mark on AIT Entrance Exam, or a passing mark in the Canadian Adult Education Certificate (CAEC).

Recommended Path: Alberta High School Diploma with:

- English 30-2
- Math 30-3
- Physics 20 or Chemistry 20 or Biology 20 or Science 20

NOTE: Pre-employment students are NOT required to be registered with Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT).

COST ESTIMATES: Note: All fees are subject to change.

Tuition	\$3,690.00
Materials	\$ 720.00
Technology Fee	\$ 360.00
Textbooks (mandatory-incudes GST)	\$ 293.04
Student Association Fee	\$ 405.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS:	\$5,468.08

ADDITIONAL FEES: Students are responsible for registering and paying the fee to challenge the first-year trades exam. The estimated cost for the Theory Exam is \$150.00.

OFFERING LOCATION and DATES:

Slave Lake: September 2, 2025 – December 19, 2025

High Level: January 5, 2026 – April 24, 2026

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- **APPLICATION:** Complete and submit the Northern Lakes College application available online on the college website at www.northernlakescollege.ca
- **APPRENTICESHIP EXAM:** Applicants needing to meet admission requirements must call the Alberta Apprenticeship & Industry Training office nearest to their location to make arrangements for writing the Apprenticeship Entrance Exam. 1-800-248-4823.
- **ACCEPTANCE:** Applicants who meet the requirements will be accepted and offered a space in the next available offering of the program. In some cases, the spaces at a specific location may be full and accepted applicants will be placed on a waitlist. These applicants will be accepted in the order of “first qualified, first served.” Applicants will receive a letter informing them of their acceptance status.
- **FUNDING:** Applicants are encouraged to check on funding options early (minimum of 2 months prior to program start date). AIT office or NLC counsellors can assist with identifying funding options and applying for sponsorship of fees and living costs.
- **REGISTRATION:** Before the start date of the program, accepted applicants will receive information about registration dates, times, locations and other information to assist them by email – please ensure we have an accurate email address for you.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For any assistance, questions or concerns, the following college staff are available toll-free 1-866-652-3456

Program Administration: **Trades and Resource Technology 1-780-843-8365**
email: tradesaccount@northernlakescollege.ca
Questions about program content, Employment Opportunities for the program.

Other Inquires: **Admissions Services 1-866-652-3456**
email: admissions@northernlakescollege.ca
Questions about Including student housing, library, facilities and general program information