

Fact Sheet

California Training Benefits



California Training Benefits (CTB) allow Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants to further their education, upgrade their skills, or learn a new trade by attending an Employment Development Department (EDD) approved school or training program while they receive UI benefits.

Approved CTB participants are exempt from the usual UI claim requirements to be available for work, to seek work, and to accept suitable work during their attendance in an EDD approved training program. UI claimants who inquire about attending a school or training program before receiving their 16th week of regular UI benefit payments may also be eligible for additional weeks of benefits on a training extension.

The EDD must verify the UI claimant's enrollment and attendance with the training provider before determining eligibility to participate in CTB, regardless of the type of training program.

Eligible Training Programs

UI claimants attending government organized training programs or in certain types of sponsored training may be eligible to participate in CTB. The following types of training programs will be approved once the EDD verifies the claimant's enrollment and attendance.

Government Organized Training Programs

- Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- California Employment Training Panel.
- Federal Trade Adjustment Assistance.
- California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids.
- Programs and providers listed on California's Eligible Training Provider List.
- Single subject teaching credential programs in K - 12 math, science, or special education, approved by the California Commission on Teaching Credentialing.

Sponsored Training Programs

- Active journey level members of a union or trade association in industry-related training.
- Employer or employer association sponsored training.
- State or federally approved apprenticeship training.

Self-Arranged Training

Claimants who are eligible for UI benefits and arrange for their own training attendance may be eligible for CTB only if they meet all legal requirements for self-arranged training, which include that:

- The training program leads to employment or skills that are in demand in the local labor market.
- The training program is full-time (typically at least 20 hours per week or 12 semester or quarter units).
- The training provider is fully accredited by the U.S. Department of Education or the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education.
- The training program can be completed in a reasonable amount of time (generally no more than two years).
- The training program can be successfully completed, even if the maximum amount of UI benefits available in the claim are not sufficient to cover the duration of the entire training program.

Training Extension Eligibility

In order to be eligible for a training extension claim, participants must meet all CTB eligibility criteria and inquire about school or training attendance prior to receiving their 16th week of regular UI benefit payments. Training extension benefits are payable

only while the participant is attending the approved training program. Training extensions may provide up to a maximum of 52 total weeks of benefit payments, reduced by all other UI benefits payable to the claimant. Only one training extension is allowed for each UI claim. Training extensions are not payable during a summer break lasting more than three weeks.

Tuition, Books, and Fees

The EDD does not cover any school or training-related expenses such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, or transportation. However, participants may apply for other state, federal, or employer programs that fund training. Visit www.studentaid.ed.gov to learn more about the available types of financial aid programs.

For More Information

Legal eligibility for the CTB program is contained in article 1.5 of the California Unemployment Insurance Code. For additional information on the CTB program visit www.edd.ca.gov/CTB.