



Student Information

What is the Program?

Skills2Advance is a tuition-free introductory training program for the skilled trades. It is funded by the Government of Ontario and Canada.

Where and When is the Course?

Six Nations Polytechnic (SNP), 411 Elgin St, Brantford, Ontario.

Cohort Number	Date of Cohorts
	Note: Dates are subject to change
Cohort 1	May 4 – July 10, 2026 plus 8 week work placement
Cohort 2	June 29 – September 4, 2026 plus 8 week placement

How is the Course Organized?

Training is full-time, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM most days, Monday to Friday. The course is comprised of the following:

- **Weeks 1-8:** orientation to program policies, procedures, safety and the classroom. Each week includes construction classes that involve wood framing, blueprint reading, tool use, basic roofing, drywall finishing and installation. As well, each week includes welding classes. Students are introduced to metal core/flux core welding and have the opportunity to take the flat MCAW welding qualification through CWB. All equipment and materials are provided, some of which you get to keep for employment.
- **Weeks 8-10:** These two weeks are considered job shadowing or mentorship weeks where you will work with a local employer or at the educational institution and job shadow.
- Workshops throughout the 8 weeks:
 - mental health
 - financial literacy
 - psychological first aid
 - forklift
 - lean 5S
 - standard first aid and CPR
 - Working at Heights
 - interview skills

- resume/cover letter writing. You will be required to have an updated resume to apply to placement positions and go on interviews with employers who offer placement opportunities through the program
- networking, resiliency and career pathway planning.
- literacy and basic skills workshops such as math upgrading, communication skills etc.
- Health & safety training, approx. 1-2 hour online

Course Attendance:

- Attendance is very important to the successful completion of the program
- **A student CANNOT miss more than 3 full days of training**
- Must attend **on-time** regularly
- If too much time is missed or consistently late, participant will be removed from program
- Students **MUST** be able to commit to the full duration of the training and the work placement (8 weeks) and full-time employment following placement (up to 40 hours per week, various shift options). Please note that full-time employment is the goal for all students but it is not guaranteed.

What are Job Placements?

- Placement dates vary depending on the employer's availability, labour market circumstances and the effort you put into job searching. Placements are a job. Participants get hired by the employer for an 8-week term. They will get paid by the employer and must follow their policies and procedures. Participants sign an employment agreement as well as placement paperwork.
- Placements are full-time hours (approx. 40 hours per week). Can vary in shifts – morning/day, afternoon, evening, 12 hour, 10 hour, rotating. Vary by location – Brantford, Brant, Norfolk, Haldimand, Hamilton, Cambridge/Kitchener/Waterloo, Oxford. We will work with you to try to find a placement that fits your transportation and other needs.
- Skills2Advance staff will support participants in getting a placement/job as soon as possible after training completion. Students must create an updated resume and go to interviews with employers to secure a placement. This will all be coordinated with Skills2Advance staff and the employer. If participants have a placement suggestion or connection, they may discuss this with Skills2Advance staff.
- Placements **MUST** be completed to finish the program and get your certificate.
- Placements are not guaranteed but are highly likely for each participant. This is dependent on many factors including the commitment/willingness/collaboration of the participant and labour market circumstances.
- All positions are entry-level jobs in manufacturing and construction. Placement positions could include: entry-level welder, entry-level general carpenter, general labourer, apprentice, skilled trades helper

- Positions start at minimum wage and can go up to about \$25. All depends on the employer, shift, and the skills you already bring to the job.
- Placement/job offers also depend highly on your resume and interview performance.

What are the Potential Career Paths?

- Students must be ready for full-time employment in manufacturing/construction \
- This training is a first step to careers such as:
 - Welder
 - General Carpenter
 - Apprentice

*these jobs are just for future planning, the training only helps participants get ENTRY-LEVEL jobs. Skilled trades take years to master and some require an apprenticeship.

- Upon completing the training component, each participant will complete one 8-week workplace placement, followed by employment. All participants will be monitored during each stage of the program and after completion, up to a year.

Certifications you will receive, if successful:

- Certificate of Completion, Skills2Advance
- Flat MCAW welding certification
- Forklift License
- Working at Heights
- CWB Health & Safety Certificate
- Other CWB certificates (if completed) – Wire Fed Processes, SMAW, Hand & Power Tools, Drawing Interpretation
- Essential and Soft Skills Training Certificate
- Standard First Aid w/ CPR-C
- Psychological First Aid

Who is eligible for the Program?

- **16+ years old**
 - 16 & 17 years old, need parent's consent signed in the participant registration form
 - Must have their OSSD or equivalent
- **High School Diploma or equivalent preferred. Exceptions will be reviewed on an individual basis**
- **Legally entitled to work in Canada**
 - Only can accept Canadian Citizen, Permanent Resident, Protected Persons (Refugees)
- **Able to stand for up to 8 hours a day and perform physically demanding tasks regularly**
- **Able to commit to different working shifts**
- **Able to work for a wage between minimum wage and \$25 approx an hour**

- **Self-identify as female, Indigenous, Youth (15-29), Low-Income/Barriered/Marginalized, Racialized, Person with a Disability, 2SLGBTIQA+**
- **Able to lift up to 50 lbs.**
- **Able to crouch, kneel, stoop, bend**
- **Manual dexterity ability**
- **Comfortable with digital technology (computer, phone etc.)**
- **Has reliable transportation to attend training locations on specified dates**
- **Lives in one of the following areas: Brantford, Brant, Norfolk, Haldimand, Six Nations, The Credit, Hamilton, Kitchener, Cambridge, Waterloo & Oxford**
- **Must be ready to work full-time in manufacturing or construction industries**

What are the Benefits of the Program?

- Free of cost
- Training subsidy
- Skills upgrading
- Job Placement that could lead to permanent employment (not guaranteed)
- Job search assistance after program completion
- Apprenticeship connections
- Graduate with multiple certifications
- Support from dedicated staff and instructors

What we will provide:

- Ten (10) weeks of free training
- Eight (8) weeks paid placement
- CWB equipment bag - which includes a welding jacket, a welding helmet, safety glasses and required tools (worth \$300 and you get to keep it)
- Stipend – at the end of the school portion of the course (but prior to the work placement) you will receive \$800 to assist in support costs.
- Work boots - \$150 dollars provided for new work boots for those that need them. A work boot truck will attend the training location for you to purchase the boots. If the boots are more than \$150, you must cover the remaining cost.
- Limited support with transportation costs will also be provided.

What you will need:

- Steel toed work boots
- Access to a computer with a camera and internet
- Work clothes for training and placement
- If you don't have these, we can provide for you (computer to borrow) and work boots

Steps to Apply for the Program:

1. **Complete Online Application Form** – Once received, staff will contact you for an interview to assist in determining eligibility.
2. **Interview** – a phone or in-person interview will be conducted with staff.
3. **Complete Online Skills Assessment** - A link to the assessment will be sent through email to you. You will have two (2) days to complete the assessment.
4. **Eligibility** - Once all information is collected and the Skills Assessment is completed, Staff will review and determine if you will be offered a spot in the program. **PLEASE NOTE:** You are NOT enrolled in the program until you receive formal confirmation of enrollment from Staff.

If your Eligibility in the Program is confirmed, you will be required to:

5. Complete the Registration form.
6. Provide your legal identification, proof of education and Social Insurance Number to Staff.
7. **Online Health and Safety Course** - All students are required to complete a health and safety course, online 2.5 hours through Canadian Welding Board (CWB). Topics covered include health and safety regarding the equipment being used, WHMIS, PPE, hazard, fire safety, AODA. This is specific to welding and is required before you will be allowed access to the weld shop on campus.
PLEASE NOTE: This must be completed before starting the welding training. You will receive an email about this with further details.
8. Attend course/training at specified date and time of your cohort
9. Attend and complete course/training
10. Attend and complete job placement
11. Employment, apprenticeship and/or education/training

Thank you for your interest in the Skills2Advance Program. Please remember that staff are always here to assist. Please contact us should you have any questions.

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