

WE ARE YOUR DOL



Department of Labor

599 TRAINING PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE 599 TRAINING PROGRAM?

The 599 Training Program is a provision in the Unemployment Insurance Law that makes it possible for Unemployment Insurance claimants to receive benefits while they attend a training course or program that has been approved by the Department of Labor. Under this provision, claimants are excused from the requirement to look for work and they may be eligible for additional weeks of benefits when funding is available. This program does not pay tuition or other school-related expenses.

Contact your training provider's financial aid office to discuss funding options.

TRAINING AND YOUR REGULAR BENEFITS

If you are still attending your approved 599 training when you exhaust your benefits, you may be able to receive up to a maximum of 26 weeks of additional unemployment benefits under Section 599.2. However, since funding for these additional benefits is not always available, additional benefits are not guaranteed. Also, these benefits may not continue until the end of your training.

GRADES AND THE 599 PROGRAM

You must maintain passing grades to remain eligible for the 599 Program. You will be asked to periodically submit a copy of your grades and schedule or other proof from your training facility to show that you are making satisfactory progress in your approved training.

QUALIFYING FOR 599 CAREER AND RELATED TRAINING

In order to be approved for the 599 Program, you must have the required qualifications and skills to complete the course or training successfully. In addition, the course or training itself must meet certain requirements. These requirements include, but are not limited to, the requirements listed below. The training must:

- Consist of a minimum of either 12 registered credit hours in each semester or at least 12 classroom hours each week
- Be completed within 24 months of your approval date
- Be career specific
- Meet the minimum or standard education requirements to qualify for work in the specific career goal

- Improve one's ability to obtain more regular, long-term employment in the state or local labor market

THE 599 PROGRAM AND HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (HSE)

The 599 Program can be used to earn your High School Equivalency as long as the training program meets the requirement of 12 classroom hours each week, has a definite training completion date, and can be completed within 24 months of your approval date.

APPLY FOR THE 599 PROGRAM

Submit a 599 application to the Department of Labor as soon as you are accepted into a school or training facility. If you are already enrolled in or have been accepted into a course of study or training program when you first file your Unemployment Insurance claim, you should submit your training application immediately to the Department of Labor at the address shown on the application. To be considered for the 599 Program, you must submit your application while you are still collecting regular unemployment benefits. You may request an application or get general information by calling the 599 Central Review Unit at **518-402-0189**.

If you are interested in attending training and have not yet enrolled, you should contact your local New York State Career Center as soon as possible. Trained counselors at the Career Centers will help you with your training needs and provide information about training programs in your area. To find the nearest Career Center, go to our Career Center locator at www.labor.ny.gov/career-center-locator/.

YOU MUST NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ABOUT YOUR TRAINING ATTENDANCE

You must apply for training approval within the first 13 weeks of your claim in order to receive the maximum benefits. A delay in notifying the Department of Labor about your training attendance may result in a reduction of any additional benefits that may be available to you. Also, failure to inform the Department that you are attending training while you receive Unemployment Insurance benefits may result in penalties and forfeiture of future benefits.