



SD UpSkill Overview

WHAT

UpSkill is a partnership between the South Dakota Board of Technical Education and the Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) that provides funding for eligible individuals to attend a certificate program at one of the state's four technical colleges. Enrollment in this program comes with excellent case management and the full array of services DLR offers job seekers. Program length varies by program and by school.

HOW

South Dakota's four technical colleges offer a range of programs. The certificates are aligned with labor market demands and articulate into Associate of Applied Science and bachelor's degree programs. Programs will be offered virtually, in-person, or hybrid.

WHEN

The application period is open and interested individuals may apply at the technical colleges. Upon completion of necessary steps, the technical college will refer an applicant to DLR for eligibility determination. DLR will accept referrals from the technical colleges through Thursday, Dec. 30.

Currently, available programs and contact information for the technical colleges can be found at dlr.sd.gov/sdupskill. Questions beyond those below can be directed to upskill@state.sd.us. Questions beyond those below can be directed to upskill@state.sd.us.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. When does enrollment begin?

Enrollments have begun. DLR will be taking referrals from the technical colleges until December 30. Most classes begin on Jan 10.

Q. Is there a cost to apply for SD UpSkill?

Applying for UpSkill is free.

Q. How does someone apply for SD UpSkill?

All applications begin at the technical colleges. Individuals who are interested in participating should contact the technical college offering the certificate program they wish to pursue.

- Lake Area Technical College: 605.882.5284 or lakeareatech.edu
- Mitchell Technical College: 800.684.1969 or mitchelltech.edu
- Southeast Technical College: 605.367.6040 or southeasttech.edu
- Western Dakota Technical College: 605.718.2565 or wdt.edu

Q. What is the application process?

- **The application process begins at the technical college. Apply at the technical college with the program you are interested in.**
- **Once accepted to the technical college, a referral will be made to DLR. DLR will reach out to schedule an intake meeting and determine eligibility. (See funding eligibility funding on next page.)**
- **Once intake is complete and applicant is determined eligible for funding, the school will be notified and registration for classes can begin. The school will work with the applicant to register for classes.**

- Applicant will continue to work with a DLR case manager throughout the training period.

Q. What is the eligibility criteria for UpSkill?

After someone applies and is accepted by the technical college, they will work with a DLR staff member to confirm eligibility for UpSkill financial assistance.

Participants must be authorized to work in the United States, reside in South Dakota, and score a 235 or higher on the ACCUPLACER® as determined by the technical college.

DLR will determine eligibility in alignment with the following:

- Eligibility as identified in WIOA [Occupational Skill Training](#) Policy 5.27
- Categories 1-6 in the Priority of Services Chart in WIOA Policy 4.1 Eligibility and Priority of Service for Wagner-Peyser, Adult, and Dislocated Workers.
 - Single Parent
 - Long Term Unemployed
 - Native American/Hawaiian Native/Alaska Native
 - 55 and older
 - Homeless
 - Substance Abuse
 - Underemployed
 - Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker
 - English Language Learners
 - Within two years of exhausting TANF
 - Veterans and Eligible Spouses who are NOT included in the priority groups 1 or 3
 - Displaced Homemaker (Displaced Homemaker will be served under the Dislocated Worker Program)
- WIOA Title I Dislocated Worker
- WIOA Title I National Dislocated Worker
- WIOA Title I Youth
- Household within 200% poverty level with children under the age of 18.

Q. How can I get more information?

Email upskill@state.sd.us or contact the technical colleges Admissions Offices

- Lake Area Technical College: 605.882.5284 or lakeareatech.edu
- Mitchell Technical College: 800.684.1969 or mitchelltech.edu
- Southeast Technical College: 605.367.6040 or southeasttech.edu
- Western Dakota Technical College: 605.718.2565 or wdt.edu

Q. When do classes begin and end?

- Lake Area Technical College: Jan. 10-May 13
- Mitchell Technical College: Jan. 10-May 6
- Southeast Technical College: Jan. 10-May 6
- Western Dakota Technical College: Jan. 10-May 13