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VOCATIONAL OUTSIDE LINE

**VOLTA**

TRAINING ACADEMY

2024 CATALOG

Effective 1/1/24 to 12/31/24

***Classroom Location:***  
*91670 Rilea Mc Carter Road*  
*Warrenton, OR 97146*

***Administrative Offices:***  
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*Vancouver, WA 98662*  
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*[www.nwlinejatc.com](http://www.nwlinejatc.com)*

VOLTA is licensed through the State of Oregon's Department of Education as a private, non-profit vocational training school. VOLTA encourages female and minorities to apply. VOLTA, or its parent Company NW Line JATC, does not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race color, region, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.

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## **VOLTA's Objectives/Mission Statement**

VOLTA is a non-profit association designed to systematically train workers for the outside electrical construction industry and is supported by the IBEW and NECA, preparing workers to enter the Outside Line industry with the basic knowledge of electrical systems, equipment, and safety to satisfy initial employment requirements. Job skills learned will prepare students for positions as: Power line construction, power line clearance, tree trimming and apprenticeship positions. VOLTA has a balanced mixture of hands-on outside skills and classroom time over a ten week, four hundred-hour, fast paced course. The students take weekly tests over course material covered plus trimester tests and a final exam. The minimum passing score is an 80% overall average. VOLTA is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Training Program.

## **PROGRAM INFORMATION**

### **What's in It for Me?**

The Outside Electrical Industry is experiencing many changes: deregulation, utility and contractor consolidation, new utility workforce strategies, skilled labor shortages, and required federal and state OSHA safety training. Contractors and Unions faced with new market challenges need to supply a more mobile, flexible, and highly trained workforce. Contractors are also feeling the need to provide more rigorous on-the-job training for their apprentices and journeymen. They are also demanding entry level employees who are better prepared to be immediately safe, productive workers and who are capable to move into apprenticeship programs.

To meet new demands of a skilled workforce, IBEW / NECA has established itself as a training and educational leader in the electrical industry. Starting with an entry level program at Camp Rilea, students can work toward a career progression to higher levels of skill, responsibility, and income.

VOLTA offers students a solid, initial career step with multiple opportunities to pursue in the Outside Electrical Industry. Class content addresses both the need for electrical line workers and the need for related and ancillary workers. This includes such skilled and semi-skilled positions as:

- Equipment Operators for Digger/Derricks, Cranes, Backhoes
- Apprentice Line Workers
- Line and Tree Crew Helpers
- Apprentice Tree Trimmers
- Meter Reader/Locators/Flagger

As graduates seek employment and develop advanced skills on the job, successful VOLTA students will know what to expect from a registered apprenticeship program that is sponsored by a professional contractor. Graduates will understand the requirements of legitimate sponsors and be able to draw on the resources and support of the IBEW / NECA to address exploitation.

## **Course Content:**

*Using their extensive industry knowledge, the NW Line staff designed the VOLTA course to meet the needs and standards of the industry. Emulating a common work week, students participate in classroom and lab instruction for 400 hours, using a "4 10" model, reporting for instruction four days a week, 10 hours each day. The course is designed to last ten weeks without interruption. The training syllabus includes following industry knowledge, skills and expectations as well as apprenticeship and job search tools. Safety is foremost in every area.*

**Industry Knowledge & Expectations**

Personal protective equipment  
Shock-Arc-Blast  
Crane load chart and safety  
Circuit maps, specs & prints  
Math  
Electrical theory  
Terms and Nomenclature  
Working around helicopters  
Substation operations  
History, Structure and Culture  
Bucket truck rescue  
Troubleshooting  
Powered equipment  
Generation, Transmission and Distribution  
Line clearance tree trimming  
Power quality  
Follow Instructions and Safety Rules  
Attendance & Tardiness  
Craftsmanship  
Tools and Equipment Care  
Housekeeping  
Productivity

**Related Skills/Training/Field Demonstrations**

Knots / Vectors / Rigging  
Tool identification  
Material identification  
Change out fuse door with extendo stick  
Wood/Steel pole climbing  
Lattice steel tower climbing  
Dig / Set wood poles  
Install / Remove conductors and guys

**Field Demonstrations/Related Training:**

Install / Remove switches and transformers  
Maintaining / Repair power systems  
Change out suspension insulators  
URD Systems  
Cable Splicing & Terminology

**Apprenticeship and Job Search:**

Career Preparation  
Workplace Violence  
Sexual Harassment  
Job Search and Interviewing  
Union vs. Non-union programs  
Variety of trades that offer apprenticeships  
Related supplemental training (classroom)  
Wages, progression and benefits  
Responsibilities of applicant, apprentice,  
    employer and committee  
Application process  
What being “indentured” means  
Standards  
On the job training  
Probation period

## **Certifications/Qualifications:**

Students will be instructed in *First Aid/CPR, Flagging & Traffic Control, OSHA Construction 10-hour ETD, Rigger & Signal Person*, as well as a variety of climbing and rescue practices. If appropriate, upon successful completion of each practice or skill, students will receive a certificate or card, confirming qualification.

## **Commercial Driver's License:**

The VOLTA curriculum will prepare students to take the written portion of the commercial vehicle test. When prepared, students may take the examination in the state where they will be residing. VOLTA does introduce students to the available resources for training in the region. Most contractors consider the commercial driver's license as an essential element for employment.

## **Student Transcript/Diploma:**

Students successfully completing the program will be awarded a Certificate of Graduation by the Academy. As a VOLTA program graduate, students will be prepared to enter the outside line construction and maintenance work force. Students who fail to complete any portion of the program may not be eligible to receive a certificate.

In addition to a diploma, graduates will also receive an official transcript from VOLTA. Each transcript will indicate the course outline, physical skills, qualifications and confirmation of instruction related to Industry expectations.



**Ability to benefit:**

In accordance with Oregon Administrative Rule, the VOLTA program offers all students, regardless of ethnicity or gender, the opportunity to succeed in the program and become employed in the Outside Electrical Industry. For successful completion, students must be able to adhere to the safety requirements of the industry, which include being able to physically and mentally able to safely learn and perform essential functions of the job, the ability to read, hear and understand instructions and warnings. For this training, such instructions, warnings and training are administered in English. Due to the size and duration of the program, we are unable to provide additional assistance to those students requiring additional translation or tutoring.

All scholarship applicants must meet the minimum application requirements as well as minimum requirements required by scholarship committees. VOLTA does not guarantee applicants will be awarded scholarship funds or admittance to the program solely based on scholarship.

## Schedule

Class schedules simulate typical working schedules within the industry with four 10-hour days, Monday through Thursday, with scheduled lunch and breaks. Classroom instruction, as well as practical field work and individual certifications such as First Aid/CPR, Flagging and OSHA 10 Hour Electrical Transmission & Distribution construction training are completed around this schedule. Weekly schedules are subject to change in accordance with recognized holidays such as Labor Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc. Additionally, term breaks may be scheduled on a session by session basis to allow for further instructor training.

VOLTA Training Academy currently offers three sessions per location, per calendar year commencing in April, July and October. Applications are available for download on our website and are not considered complete until the administrative office has received all required forms and documentation as well as the enrollment fee. The application period for each session will be as noted below. Additionally, students should select their preferred location, East or West.

Official Enrollment and registration will be granted based on a first come, first served basis. Once the class has been filled, an additional 15 applications will be placed for the “wait list”; all other applications and enrollment fees will be returned at that time.

### Holidays and scheduled closures:

The school is closed for the following holidays:

- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day and the following Friday

When a holiday occurs, Friday will be added to the schedule to compensate for the closure date. For holiday closures of more than one day, such as Thanksgiving, Friday will be added to the week following the closure. Sessions are not conducted during the winter break covering Christmas, New Year’s or Martin Luther King Day. In event of closure due to inclement weather, the Instructors and Administrative staff will notify all students of schedule changes.

***Future dates to be published; all dates are subject to change.*** Applicants will be notified of any change to sessions dates should they occur. Applicants have the option of changing sessions or withdrawing from the program prior to the commencement of the session without penalty should the change in scheduling cause substantial hardship.

## 2024 VOLTA Calendar

### ***Spring Application Dates***

\*Spring “Meet & Greet” Orientation  
1<sup>st</sup> Day of Spring term  
Spring Graduation

***February 5th***

TBD  
April 8th  
June 14th

### ***Summer Applications open***

\*Summer “Meet & Greet” Orientation  
1<sup>st</sup> Day of Summer term  
Summer term Break  
Summer Graduation

***April 8th***

TBD  
July 8th  
July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 2nd  
September 10th

### ***Fall Application s open***

\*Fall “Meet & Greet” Orientation  
1<sup>st</sup> Day of Fall term  
Fall Graduation

***July 8th***

TBD  
October 7th  
December 13th

***\*Meet & Greet confirmations will be sent with acceptance to allow students adequate time to obtain tools and housing.***

***Schedule adjustments may occur due to holidays and/or time off due to unavoidable scheduling conflicts.***

## ***Policy Regarding the Selection of Students***

When applications for VOLTA are received, they will be reviewed for compliance with the Student Admission Requirements and completeness. Students who are qualified will then be placed into the session.

If the number of applications exceeds the space available in a VOLTA session, the next 20 applicants shall be wait-listed in the sequence their **qualified and complete applications** were drawn from the remaining pool. Should space in a session become available due to a cancellation, withdrawal or other reason, wait-listed applicants shall be contacted in the sequence of their completed applications and invited to join the session until the session is filled.

If an applicant is contacted to fill an available space in a session and declines to do so, their application will be closed, and the \$150 enrollment fee provided the 30-day limit has not expired. Applicants who are not placed in the enrollment pool will be invited to attend the next available session.

VOLTA/Northwest Line JATC shall keep a log of applications received, noting the date of receipt, whether the application is qualified and complete, and the disposition of the application.

### **Admission Requirements:**

VOLTA encourages anyone who is interested in learning a high-paying, skilled trade to apply. The program focuses on skills for the new worker and for the experienced worker who is changing occupations. To be admitted to the Vocational Outside Line Training Academy, prospective students must:

- Be a high school graduate or have received a GED certificate;
- Be 18 years of age prior to the commencement of the training;
- Have an active email account;
- Comply with a no-tolerance drug and alcohol policy which may include testing;
- Possess a valid driver's license issued in the United States;
- Be physically able to perform the work of the industry, including climbing utility poles.

## Acceptance Notification

All applicants will receive correspondence indicating the status of their application, regardless of the status of their enrollment. Applicants who have not met the minimum requirements will receive notification indicating the unmet qualifications and will have the opportunity to complete the application. Receipt of incomplete applications does not guarantee acceptance; only completed applications received within the application period will be eligible for registration in the course.

Students accepted into the session will receive notification of acceptance, additional reminders regarding tools, housing etc., as well as scheduled orientation dates. Students can log into their account at any time to check the status of their application.

As VOLTA serves to provide qualified workers for a “traveling trade” whenever possible, correspondence will be done via email. Please ensure you have a current email contact in your account file. All notifications will be made within 10 working days from receipt of application.

## Wait list stipulations:

For applicants on the wait list to remain eligible for the session, the following apply:

- You must be able to pay the tuition in full prior to the first day
- You must have all required tools and equipment (confirmed by instructors) by the first day
- It is highly recommended you attend the Orientation course to ensure you are prepared for a last-minute opening.

Once the orientation for the session has completed, contact will be made with each person on the wait list for the session to ensure they are still interested. If no longer interested, their application will be closed and a request for refund of the enrollment fee will be processed.

## Orientation Schedule

Orientation sessions approximately 6 weeks prior to the beginning of class. Information on the class schedule, as well as questions about tools, accommodations and related requirements will be reviewed. Enrolled students, as well as those on the wait list, will receive information on orientation and confirmation of attendance will be provided via email and in writing by the administrative staff.

## Tuition and Expenses:

|                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Registration and application fee: | \$ 150.00 Due with the application |
| Tuition:                          | <u>\$ 8,350.00</u>                 |
| Total Enrollment Cost:            | \$ 8,500.00                        |

|                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Personal Equipment (estimated): | <u>\$ 2,500.00</u> |
| Total Training Cost:            | \$11,000.00        |

The registration fee of **\$150.00** is due with application. Students who are enrolled into the program must remit a tuition advance deposit of **\$1,700.00** no later than **30 days prior** to the start of the class session. The remainder of the tuition, **\$6,650.00** is due no later than the 5pm on the last business day prior to commencement of the session. Students who have not paid in full by that date will not be enrolled in the program.

### ***Additional Expenses:***

Personal equipment includes the hand tools, boots, and climbing gear that every line worker needs on the job. Students provide their own tool kits, personal equipment, and specialty clothing used in the workplace as well as a calculator and writing supplies. Volta will provide students with a list of vendors that provide the required equipment. Students may acquire their equipment from other sources provided it meets industry standards for safety; the cost of equipment typically ranges between \$1,100 and \$1,650. (see Appendix A)

## **Cancellation and Refund Policies:**

A student may cancel enrollment by giving written notice to the school at the administrative address. ***Enrollment is defined as the signing of the Enrollment Agreement***, not as the start date of class sessions. If notice occurs:

- (a) within 5 calendar days of the date of enrollment, all monies paid shall be refunded; all requests must be made in writing to the administrative offices.

or

- (b) after 5 calendar days of the date of enrollment and prior to the commencement of classes, the school may retain only the published registration/application fee. Such fee shall not exceed 15 percent of the total tuition cost, or \$150, whichever is less. Tuition payments are refundable in accordance with the schedule below.

If the student or the school terminates training after commencement of classes, unless the school has discontinued the program of instruction, the student is financially obligated to the school according to the following formulas or maximum charges:

If a student withdraws prior to or at 50 percent completion of the contracted instructional program, the student shall be entitled to a pro rata refund of the tuition charged and paid for such instructional program, less registration/application fees, supply fees, and any other legitimate charges owed by the student. ***Formal written notice of intent to withdraw must be received by instructors or administrative staff no later than 20 days after the last date of attendance.***

If a student withdraws upon completion of more than 50 percent of the contracted instructional program, or has the enrollment agreement terminated for disciplinary action, the student shall be obligated for the remaining tuition charged for the entire instructional program and shall not be entitled to any prorated refund. *Per OAR 715-045-0036, students withdrawing or terminated from the program after completion of 50% shall not be entitled to any refund. Inquiries regarding OAR may be directed to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Oregon Department of Education, 3225 25<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Salem, OR 97302 or by calling (503) 947-5751.*

Pro rata refund means a refund of tuition paid for that portion of the program not completed by the student prior to withdrawal. The date for determining that portion shall be the published course schedule and the last recorded date of attendance by the student.

If an applicant is rejected, their application fee will be refunded. Applicants who have been are eligible to reapply subject to all terms and requirements initial applicant.

Applications accompanied by the \$150 fee that are received after the class and waiting list is full will be returned to the applicant with a letter outlining the next application period.

## Pro-rated Tuition Schedule

| Day | Pro-rata Deduction | <b>Refund Amount</b> | Day | Pro-rata Deduction | <b>Refund Amount</b> |
|-----|--------------------|----------------------|-----|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1   | \$208.75           | <b>\$8,141.25</b>    | 11  | \$2,296.25         | <b>\$6,053.75</b>    |
| 2   | \$417.50           | <b>\$7,932.50</b>    | 12  | \$2,505.00         | <b>\$5,845.00</b>    |
| 3   | \$626.25           | <b>\$7,723.75</b>    | 13  | \$2,713.75         | <b>\$5,636.25</b>    |
| 4   | \$835.00           | <b>\$7,515.00</b>    | 14  | \$2,922.50         | <b>\$5,427.50</b>    |
| 5   | \$1,043.75         | <b>\$7,306.25</b>    | 15  | \$3,131.25         | <b>\$5,218.75</b>    |
| 6   | \$1,252.50         | <b>\$7,097.50</b>    | 16  | \$3,340.00         | <b>\$5,010.00</b>    |
| 7   | \$1,461.25         | <b>\$6,888.75</b>    | 17  | \$3,548.75         | <b>\$4,801.25</b>    |
| 8   | \$1,670.00         | <b>\$6,680.00</b>    | 18  | \$3,757.50         | <b>\$4,592.50</b>    |
| 9   | \$1,878.75         | <b>\$6,471.25</b>    | 19  | \$3,966.25         | <b>\$4,383.75</b>    |
| 10  | \$2,087.50         | <b>\$6,262.50</b>    | 20  | \$4,175.00         | <b>\$4,175.00</b>    |

\*Based on 10 hour - 4 day per week scheduling.

*Per OAR 715-045-0036, students withdrawing or terminated from the program after completion of 50% shall not be entitled to any refund. Inquiries regarding OAR may be directed to Private Career Schools, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, 3225 25<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Salem, OR 97302.*



## **Student Services**

VOLTA does not provide housing; however, we do recommend students utilize local rental sites and RV/Camping locations for the most current availability.

All students participating in VOLTA training are required to adhere to base rules and procedures at all times; failure to do so may result in termination of your enrollment and expulsion from the base. Refunds may be withheld if a student violates the base rules and there is a debt owed to the Oregon Department of Military, owners and operators of the Rilea Military Training Center.

## **Job Placement Information:**

The program includes industry orientation, covering such topics as related trades, apprenticeship, application processes, and interviewing. As a partner of the Industry that it serves, VOLTA and its parent organization, NW Line JATC, are unique resources for students as they seek and evaluate job opportunities. Through guest lectures and participation, students will have access to IBEW/NECA contractors, utility companies and/or other program representatives. *VOLTA does not and cannot guarantee employment.*

## School Policies:

Though instructors use their best, professional ability to support student success, the responsibility for completing and graduating from the program rests solely on the students. Students are expected to perform the work assigned in the program diligently and faithfully during the entire course of instruction and in conformity with the standards and rules of the Academy. The terms and conditions contained in the Enrollment Agreement detail the expectations and responsibilities of both the student and NW Line JATC.

- Written tests and quizzes, instructor evaluation by observation of students' demonstrated ability in the field to meet minimum safety standards (e.g. ascending/descending poles, and towers in a safe manner,) physical agility, and homework will all be used to rate student progress. Following the "Skills, Attitude & Personal Traits" model of the industry, attitude, desire to learn and eagerness to participate are also included in the instructor evaluation.
- The demands of the industry and the safety of workers make it necessary to evaluate student performance. **The minimum acceptable, cumulative performance level is 80% (or 800 points) for tests, quizzes, and graded homework.** In the event a student fails to reach the minimum performance at the end of weeks 3, 4, or 5 without possibility of successful completion of the program, he/she will be dropped from the program and refunded appropriate fees.
- To graduate, students must pass written, comprehensive examinations on the subject matters in the curriculum, and
- Satisfactorily complete all assignments and
- Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the instructors the skills and abilities taught in the program regarding the physical application of the subject matter (e.g. CPR, safety procedures, pole climbing.)

### Previous Credit:

Because of the sequential instruction of the program and uniqueness of program, we do not allow previous credit. Additionally, due to this unique curriculum, the program does not allow "transfers in" from other like programs.

### Grading System:

Following the expectations of the industry, VOLTA has adopted the following system for all academic requirements:

|    |            |    |                    |
|----|------------|----|--------------------|
| A  | 99 to 100% | C  | 87 to 88%          |
| A- | 97 to 98%  | C- | 85 to 86%          |
| B+ | 95 to 96%  | D+ | 83 to 84%          |
| B  | 93 to 94%  | D  | 81 to 82%          |
| B- | 91 to 92%  | D- | 80 to 81%          |
| C+ | 89 to 90%  | F  | 0 to 79% - Failing |

Poleyard / Hands-on skills are graded as timed proficiencies, based on the individual task and the grade is calculated into the overall academic score. Students are given the individual requirements at various intervals up to the "tested" performance. Additionally, students are given ample opportunity to perfect accuracy and timing to meet the minimum specifications for each task.

## **Attendance and Absences -**

Attending VOLTA is the equivalent of going to a full-time job. Students are expected to be on time, prepared and ready to learn when the class commences. To remain in the program, students must not have more than 2 absences during the 10 week course. **Students who are absent more than 2 days will not receive a graduation certificate.**

## **Tardiness -**

Arriving late or leaving early by up-to 15 minutes constitutes tardiness. Being tardy twice will be counted as an absence. Arriving more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early will also be recorded as an absence.

## **Make-up Work -**

If a student needs to make-up work as a result of some circumstance, such as illness that is outside the student's control, the instructors will accept late homework and will administer missed tests. The administration of make-up tests will be at the convenience of the instructor. Additionally, any make-up work needed must be completed and evaluated prior to the end of the school session, as there is no carry-over into a subsequent session.

## **Requests for Leave of Absence –**

Due to the unique, fast paced environment of the program, any time away from instruction jeopardizes the students' ability to successfully complete the program. The staff of VOLTA recognizes extenuating circumstances may arise and will evaluate such a situation on an individual basis to ensure ample opportunity to complete the course, without compromising the student's education. Should such an event occur, the student must submit a request in writing which includes the reason for leave and the length of time requested. In the event of a disabling illness or accident, death in the immediate family or other circumstances beyond the control of the student that causes the student to leave school, the school shall arrange a prorated tuition settlement that is reasonable and fair to both parties.

## **Personal Conduct -**

VOLTA and NW Line JATC assume that students will conduct themselves in a mature and professional manner at all times. Expulsion from the program will be immediate if a student engages in unacceptable behaviors which include, but are not limited to:

- Stealing or intentionally destroying school property
- Destroying military property/violation of base rules
- Violating the drug and alcohol policy
- Cheating
- Engaging in disruptive or harassing behavior
- Endangering her/himself in any way or endangering others in the class

## **Dishonesty and Cheating -**

VOLTA students will take responsibility for their own work, learning, and performance. Any dishonesty or cheating will result in an automatic expulsion from the school.

## **Drug Free Policy**

VOLTA students are required to agree and consent to the following drug policy. A signed confirmation of acceptance is required prior to the first day of instruction to be eligible to attend training.

*The **Vocational Outside Line Worker Training Academy** (hereafter referred to as **VOLTA**) has an interest in establishing a training environment free of the influence of drugs and alcohol for the benefit of its students and instructors. As a result, **VOLTA** will implement a drug and alcohol free policy to insure that its students are free from the effects of drugs and alcohol while at school. Effective **September 1, 2005**, this drug free policy will be implemented and will apply to all students of **VOLTA** (hereafter referred to as the school).*

### **INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS**

#### **Possession, Use, or Distribution of Illegal Drugs or Alcohol**

*The possession, use, purchase, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs (meaning those drugs for which there is no generally accepted medical use, e.g. marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, pcg, opiates) or, drug paraphernalia, by a student is strictly prohibited. Any student violating this prohibition will be expelled from the school. The school has an absolute prohibition against student use of illegal drugs. A student's illegal use, manufacture, purchase, possession, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs, or drug paraphernalia, that results in criminal charges being brought against the student, will result in the student being requested to submit to drug testing and may result in the student being suspended from school. Any student convicted of a criminal drug statute will be expelled from the school.*

#### **Student's Use of Alcohol**

*The school is committed to ensuring that no students are at school while under the influence of alcohol. Therefore, students are not to consume alcohol within four (4) hours of school. Students are not to be in class or remain at school while having an alcohol concentration of .02 BAC or greater. Students are prohibited from using or possessing alcohol while on school grounds.*

### **DRUG OR ALCOHOL TESTING REQUIRED OF STUDENTS**

*All students enrolled in VOLTA are subject to drug and alcohol testing during their enrollment.*

#### **Reasonable Cause Testing**

*The school will require a student to be tested for the use of alcohol, illegal drugs, or the abuse of prescription medication if a student's physical appearance or pattern of behavior gives school officials reason to believe the student is impaired because of substance abuse. The basis of suspicion regarding drug or alcohol abuse may be a specific, contemporaneous event or conduct evidencing impairment observed over a period of time.*

#### **Post-Accident Testing**

*Any student who is involved in an accident will be tested for the use of illegal drugs and alcohol as soon as practicable after the accident. Examples of accidents that will require a student to take a post-accident test include, but are not limited to, accidents that are caused by a student, in whole or in part, and result in one of the following:*

1. *a fatality or bodily injury to another requiring medical treatment away from the accident; or*
2. *an injury that results in a student's injuring themselves or others where the injured party requires medical attention away from the school; or*
3. *damage to property owned by the school, or by a third party, that may reasonably be estimated to exceed \$500.*

*A student who is seriously injured and cannot provide a specimen for testing will be required to authorize the release of relevant hospital reports or other documentation that would indicate whether there were drugs or alcohol in his/her system at the time of the accident. If it is determined by school management that a student's accident was definitely caused by the actions of another, and that there were no unsafe acts on the part of the injured student, the school reserves the right to waive post-accident testing.*

*Students who are involved in an accident requiring medical attention are to inform their instructor of the accident as soon as possible so that any needed drug or alcohol testing may be promptly conducted. Any alcohol testing under this section will be limited to circumstances where there is evidence that the student involved may have been alcohol impaired at the time of the accident.*

### ***Refusal***

*A student may not refuse to take a drug or alcohol test when requested to do so. Such a refusal will be considered equivalent to testing positive for illegal drugs or alcohol. A student will be considered as refusing to test if he/she expressly refuses to take a test when so requested, or otherwise fails to provide an adequate breath, saliva, or urine sample without a valid medical explanation. Additionally, a student will be considered as refusing to test if he/she engages in conduct that clearly obstructs the testing process.*

## **DRUG/ALCOHOL TESTING PROCEDURES**

### ***Specimen Collection Procedure***

*When a student is notified that he/she is to submit to drug or alcohol testing, he/she will be given instructions as to where to report for testing. All specimen collections will be conducted by personnel who have been properly instructed and will be done according to approved collection procedures.*

### ***Adulteration or Submission of Concealed Specimen***

*If, during the collection procedure, the collection monitor detects an effort by a student to adulterate or substitute a specimen, a second specimen will be requested. If a second specimen is provided, it will be tested. If the request for a second specimen is refused, the collector will convey to the school the student's refusal to submit a true specimen. Such conduct will result in the student being expelled from the school.*

*In the event that a student submits a specimen that is identified as a diluted specimen, that student will be requested to submit a second specimen. Such students will be advised by the school not to drink any fluids prior to the test.*

### **Drug/Alcohol Testing and Confirmation**

All urine specimens will be tested for the presence of illegal drugs. When an student is tested for the presence of alcohol, the testing level will be the equivalent of 0.02 alcohol concentration (BAC). The school reserves the right to test a student for the presence of prescription medication when it has reason to believe the student may be abusing such medication.

Any specimen that screens positive for the presence of illegal drugs will be confirmed by the Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) confirmation method at a certified testing laboratory. Any student who tests positive for illegal drugs or prescription medication may request the same specimen be re-tested at his/her expense. This request must be conveyed to the school within seven (7) working days of the student being notified of the positive test result.

In testing for alcohol, any student tested will be given an initial test, and if they test above .02 BAC, a confirmation test will be performed no sooner than 15 minutes after the first test. Any alcohol confirmation test must be done by means of a breath testing device.

### **Notification of Test Results**

All drug test results received from the laboratory will be forwarded through the office of **Minert & Associates, Inc.** to the school. In forwarding test results to the school, the staff of **Minert & Associates, Inc.** will only report results to those school official(s) authorized to receive them. In the event a student tests positive, the school will be notified of the student's identity and the drug(s) involved.

Any student who tests positive will be allowed to discuss that result with the school's drug testing servicing agency, i.e. **Minert & Associates, Inc.**, prior to the school taking disciplinary action. In talking with any such individual, the staff of **Minert & Associates, Inc.** may consult with a medical professional and will follow up on such information as is deemed necessary in resolving the question of the student's illegal drug use.

If, after consideration of the matter, the staff at **Minert & Associates, Inc.** determines that an student's positive test result was due to his/her authorized use of prescription medication, their staff will immediately report that result to the school and no further action will be taken. However, if an student cannot provide a reasonable explanation for his/her positive test result, the school will be notified of the positive test result and will then take disciplinary action consistent with the terms of this policy.

### **Effect of Testing Positive**

Any student who tests positive for the presence of illegal drugs or alcohol in excess of .02 BAC will be expelled from school.

The terms of this drug free policy are intended to produce an environment where students are free from the effects of drugs and/or alcohol. Students should be aware that the provisions of this policy may be revised when necessary and that students will be notified of any such changes. The school anticipates that by implementing the provisions of this drug free policy its students will enjoy the benefits of a safer and more productive school environment.

## **Student Performance and Progress, Probation -**

The 10 week duration of VOLTA does not allow time for a student to fall behind. Progress will be evaluated by the instructors during the course, each week. To receive a completion certificate, students must complete the course with at least an 80% cumulative average on all tests and have been passed by the instructors on 100% of all skills competencies.

## **Disciplinary Process -**

Warning notices will be issued to students who are in jeopardy of probation, unsatisfactory progress, or termination. Lack of corrective action to warning notices will result in probation; failure to correct actions as specified will result in termination and/or loss of financial aid. This process applies to academic progress and conduct policies.

## **Warnings -**

1. **Academic** - Student will receive warning(s) when the test average falls below the minimum 80% or an individual test grade falls below 70%.
2. **Attendance** - Student will be reminded of the attendance policy after one absence (or the two tardy equivalents.)
3. **Conduct** - Student will receive warning for not complying with school policies and rules.

## **Notifications/Probation/Suspensions/Terminations**

1. **Verbal** If a school official sees a current or developing problem, the student will be notified verbally of the concern as soon as possible and the student file will be documented accordingly.
2. **Probation** Probation will be instated as a result of academic or behavioral occurrences that place the student (or others) in jeopardy. A student will be counseled verbally with a written follow-up identifying specific area(s) of deficiency and the requirements to end probation. It is the student's responsibility to initiate corrective actions which may include meeting with the school official to discuss the reasons for and solutions to the terms of probation.
3. **Suspension** The duration of the school is too short to accommodate a traditional suspension. A student may be asked to leave the course for the balance of a day due to conduct, and that day will be counted as an absence under the Attendance and Absences policy.
4. **Termination** If there is cause for termination under these policies, the student will be notified verbally, with a written confirmation sent to their address of record.

**Although the school has established a progressive notification process, the authority is retained to impose immediate probation, suspension, or termination when appropriate in the sole judgment of the school.**



## **Grievance Procedure and Student Appeal Process -**

Students have the right to lodge a grievance with or appeal a ruling by the school. If a student has a grievance against the school, they should first attempt to resolve any concerns with the appropriate instructor. Should that attempt, the student should file complaints or appeals in writing and postmarked within 45 days of the student's last date of attendance. These will be reviewed by the Director and/ or NW Line-JATC Committee. Unless specifically provided by state or federal law or administrative rule, the decision of the NW Line JATC shall be final in the reconciliation of the grievance or appeal.

Students aggrieved by action of the school should attempt to resolve these problems with appropriate school officials. Should this procedure fail, students may contact:

*Private Career Schools  
Higher Education Coordinating Commission  
3225 25<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Salem, OR 97302*

After consultation with the appropriate Department staff and if the complaint alleges a violation of Oregon Revised Statutes 345.010 to 345.470 or standards of the Oregon Administrative Rules 715-045-0001 through 715-045-0210, the Department will begin the complaint investigation process as defined in OAR 715-045-0023 Appeals and Complaints.

## **Re-Admission Policy -**

Readmission is at the sole discretion of the school. Those students who desire to be reinstated must submit written request to Instructors, clearly identifying the request for reinstatement. All requests will be reviewed by Instructors and the Director within two days of receipt. Notifications of results will be via phone, followed with written confirmation.

## **Student Records and Transcripts:**

### **Student Records**

Individual student records are kept on file at the school during the session, and are available for review upon request. Subsequent to the end of the session, all records are stored at the administrative office and are available to the student, with a minimum of 48 hours notification for review. All documents are confidential and will remain the property of the NW Line JATC/VOLTA Training Academy. Students are not permitted to copy, duplicate or photograph records at any time.

### **Transcripts**

Within the first 30 days after graduation, a minimum of two student transcripts will be provided at no cost; one official sealed transcript and one official transcript for the student's records. After 30 days, transcripts may be obtained for \$5.00 per copy by submitting a written request (with payment enclosed) which includes instructions for delivery of document(s). *All records are held (per OR Admin Rules 715-045-0018(3)(b)(H), and maintained for a minimum of 25 years.*

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), all student records are confidential, and will not be released to any third party without written approval from the student unless defined under the conditions of 34 CFR § 99.31.

Inquiries may be made to VOLTA at the administrative address or to Private Career School, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, 3225 25<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Salem, OR 97302 or by calling (503) 947-5751.

## **POLICY AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

VOLTA does not tolerate sexual harassment of any kind. Sexual harassment is unlawful and such prohibited conduct exposes not only the Committee, but individuals involved in such conduct to significant liability under the law. VOLTA expects employee (including instructors) and students to treat each other with respect and dignity. Sexual harassment not only hurts the immediate victim, but can result in a general atmosphere in which the purpose of the training program is undermined. VOLTA therefore, is committed to vigorously enforcing this policy against sexual harassment. VOLTA employees or students who engage in such conduct will be disciplined. Employers who engage in such conduct against students will be denied access to students.

### **WHAT CONSTITUTES SEXUAL HARASSMENT?**

Sexual harassment, according to the federal Equal Opportunity (EEOC) consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and any other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- a. submission to such conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's training or employment;
- b. submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for a training-related or employment-related decision affecting such individual; or
- c. such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, abusive or offensive working environment.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to, intentional physical conduct that is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting; sexually-oriented gestures, noises, remarks, jokes or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience; and displaying pictures, posters, calendars, graffiti, objects, promotional materials, reading materials or other materials that are sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic.

### **FILING AND INVESTIGATING COMPLAINTS**

Any complaints regarding sexual harassment occurring at JATC facilities, or involving employees of the JATC, should be submitted to the JATC Training Director or an individual designated by the Training Director. Complaints may be made in writing or orally, and anonymous complaints will be accepted. A complaint of harassment may be made by someone who is not the target of harassment, and, indeed, anyone who observes sexual harassment is encouraged to report it. Complaints of sexual harassment will be fully investigated and a determination of the facts will be made on a case-by-case basis. Complaints and information obtained in the course of investigations of complaints shall be treated confidentially except to the extent necessary to investigate and resolve such complaints or as may be necessary to respond to such complaints in a legal proceeding before a court or administrative agency.

VOLTA instructors are responsible for reprimanding students for engaging in an act of sexual harassment against another apprentice which the instructor observes or of which the instructor becomes aware. If the conduct continues or recurs, the instructor should file an official complaint with the VOLTA Director

If an employee wishes to pursue a sexual harassment complaint through a government agency or to seek outside help from a third party, he or she has a legal right to do so. Under no circumstances should VOLTA employees interfere with that right.

## **RESOLVING COMPLAINTS**

After a thorough investigation, any VOLTA employee or student found to have committed an act of sexual harassment shall be immediately disciplined. The nature of the discipline imposed will depend on the nature and severity of the misconduct found upon investigation, and may include discharge for a first offense. Reconsideration by VOLTA may be requested within thirty days of receiving the decision.

## **RETALIATION PROHIBITED**

VOLTA will not tolerate any form of retaliation against a student or a VOLTA employee who has made a complaint or cooperated in an investigation of alleged sexual harassment. All persons contacted in the course of an investigation will be advised that they and other individuals involved in a complaint are entitled to be treated in a professional and respectful manner, and that any retaliation or reprisal against an individual who is an alleged target of harassment or who has made a complaint, or has been provided evidence in conjunction with a complaint, is prohibited and could result in discipline up to, and including, termination. VOLTA employees or students who are found to have engaged in retaliation or who fail to cooperate with an investigation of sexual harassment will be subject to substantial discipline up to, and including, discharge or termination from the program.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION PLEDGE**

The recruitment, selection, and training of students during the program, shall be without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex or age—except the applicant must be at least 18 years of age to apply. The JATC does not, and will not, discriminate against a qualified individual with a disability because of the disability of such individual.

The school’s policies governing employees will be enforced in situations where instructional staff or other school personnel have been found to have engaged in discriminatory behavior. Any person unlawfully discriminated against, as described in ORS 345.240, may file a complaint under ORS 659A.820 with the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

## **COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

Any Student or applicant, who believes that he or she has been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sex with regard to studentship, or that equal opportunity standards have not been followed, has 180 days from the date of the alleged discrimination to register a complaint. The complaint shall be in writing and shall be signed by the complainant. It must include the name, address and telephone number of the person allegedly discriminated against, the program member involved, and a brief description of the circumstances of the failure to apply the equal opportunity standards.

Students aggrieved by action of the school should attempt to resolve those problems with appropriate school officials. Should this procedure fail, students may contact: Private Career Schools Licensing Unit, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, 3225 25<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Salem, OR 97302. After consultation with appropriate Commission staff and if the complaint alleges a violation of Oregon Revised Statutes 345.010 to 345.470 or standards of the Oregon Administrative Rules 715-045-0001 through 715-045-0210, the Commission will begin the complaint investigation process as defined in OAR 715-045-0023 Appeals and Complaints.

## **VOLTA Advisory Committee:**

The vocational program receives guidance from a group of industry and training professionals. Their responsibility is to evaluate VOLTA's performance against its mission, to review new ideas for improving the curriculum and the delivery of the training, and to support the instructors' continued excellence in teaching.

## **Advisory Board Members:**

### **Tracy Harness, Executive Director of the Northwest Line Constructors Chapter NECA**

Tracy began her career as Chapter Manager of the Northwest Line Constructors Chapter NECA in 1989 after working for the Chapter since 1986. In 1995 she served as a training coordinator with Northwest Public Power Association, working with PUD's, Municipal and Cooperative Utilities in nine NW States before returning to the Chapter in 2004.

### **Greg Gardner, Retired**

Greg completed his NW Line Apprenticeship program in 1981, and holds a Bachelor's of Applied Science as well as a Journeyman Lineman card. Greg worked as an Instructor for NW Line JATC for more than 16 years, as well as several of the electrical utilities in Oregon. He is currently the General Manager for Blachly Lane Electric.

### **Casey Luce, DJ's Electric**

After attending line school, Casey enrolled in the apprenticeship program in 2002. Upon successful completion, Casey has worked with both utility and construction contractors throughout the Pacific Northwest. Casey has been active with the NECA Chapter and joined the advisory board in 2018.

### **George Colman, Par Electric**

George Coleman is the Senior Vice President of Operations – Mountain West Region for PAR. Mr. Coleman assumed this role in 2018, where he oversees operations and business development for four divisional offices in the Mountain West. Mr. Coleman initially joined PAR in 2003 as an Equipment and has several different positions within the PAR organization, each with increasing levels of responsibility. Resultingly, he gained experience in almost all aspects of the electrical power contractor business, including multiple operations and project management positions such as Project Manager, Division Manager, and Director – Northwest.

## Staff, Instructors and the Training Facility

### *Camp Rilea - A Specialized Training Facility:*

*VOLTA is held at the NW Line facilities in Warrenton, Oregon, a 10-minute drive from Astoria. It is located within Camp Rilea, a very large, U.S. Army training complex. NW Line designed its training center for the specific needs of the outside line industry. In addition to classroom space for technical studies, students use a pole yard for working simulations of field conditions. The training center is equipped with the latest in power transmission equipment, such as transformers and switching systems, so that students have hands-on learning that matches actual working situations. These training aids replicate the conditions and types of power transmission devices used in the industry. Other, public entities such as the Oregon State Patrol also have training resources within the camp complex.*

In 1992, after utilizing existing facilities on base since 1972, the Northwest Line JATC entered into an agreement with the Camp Rilea Military Reservation, to build a training facility to further advance the education and training of Apprentices.

Camp Rilea facilities include fully equipped classrooms, state-of-the-art electrical equipment, and both indoor and outdoor mock-ups of tower, pole, and line structures for hands-on skill practice. In 2006, the building was expanded, bringing the current facility to 19,320 sq. ft., which includes five classrooms as well as an 11,200ft inside pole yard.

### **Staff & Instructors**

The VOLTA program is staffed by instructors who are Journeyman level workers active in the industry. Members of the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee represent both the IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) and NECA (National Electrical Contractors Association). Students will have the opportunity to generate contacts with the union and business representatives, as well as various utility and private contractor representatives.

#### **Terry Lowen, Director**

Terry joined the program as Director after working more than 20 years as a Journeyman. Prior to completing his apprenticeship with the California Nevada JATC, he obtained a Master's in Education from Eastern Oregon University. Most recently he held the position of Quality Manger at Wilson Construction and began teaching for NW Line JATC in 2017 as a part time Instructor.

#### **Cary Gray, Assistant Director**

After completing an apprenticeship with a local utility, Brian continued to work in the industry for Utilities and Line Contractors. In 2020, he joined the NW Line group as a part time instructor and joined the team full time in the spring of 2021.

**Rob Craig, Assistant Director**

Rob joined the NW Line team in November 2019, after working with Portland General Electric for more than 30 years. After college, Rob took a part time job with PGE, continuing his career by entering the apprenticeship and becoming a journeyman lineman. During the course of his career he has mentored many apprentices entering the industry and enjoys working with apprentices and VOLTA students.

**Scott Barnes**

After completing the Power Line Clearance & Tree Trimming program in 2005, Scott worked with tree contractors in Oregon and SW Washington prior to becoming a volunteer instructor in 2010 and joining the team as part time Instructor in 2011. In the Spring of 2015, Scott joined the team as a full time Training Coordinator for the Tree program, where he has continued to expand and improve both the training and outreach to both the Tree and VOLTA programs.

**Additional Staff**

In addition to our full time Instructors, VOLTA is supported by the administrative staff of the NW Line JATC office. We are here to assist you in any way we can, from your initial inquires to your final transcripts.

**Claudia Repman, Manager Administrative Operations/Financial Aid Registrar**

For questions regarding tuition, scholarships, verification of attendance and WorkSource funding, please contact Ms. Repman by phone or email at [claudia@nwlinejatc.com](mailto:claudia@nwlinejatc.com)

Additional administrative staff with backgrounds focusing on student licensing requirements and marketing round out our admin staff to offer support to our students and apprentices alike.






## Appendix A

# Tools & Supplies

*Note: Prices may vary.*

If you are not sure about tools, boots, and equipment purchases, feel free to reach out to our Training Partners. If that does not answer your questions, you may want to wait until after the Orientation. Students can get their tools from any source, but VOLTA recommends our training partners for their expertise and understanding of the trade.

| ITEM                  | DESCRIPTION   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>LINE BOOTS</b>     | <p>Find a pair that are comfortable but also durable and waterproof, suitable for tasks like climbing and working on the ground. Boots with full shanks are popular, safety, or composite toed <b><u>but absolutely no steel-toed boots.</u></b></p> <p>Here are some more popular styles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">La Sportiva Men's Makalu</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">La Sportiva Mens Karakorum Mountaineering/Hiking Boots</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Dri-Line. Hoffman Boots</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Pole Climbers. Hoffman Boots</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Lowa Men's Tibet GTX Trekking Boot</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Kenetrek Mountain Extreme Non Insulated Boot</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Wesco®   Stock Highliner (wescoboos.com)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Wesco®   Stock VoltFoe (wescoboos.com)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Zamberlan 996 Vioz GTX WL Waterproof Hiking Boots</a></li> </ul> |
|                       |   |
| <b>WORK GLOVES</b>    | You can buy leather gloves in a 3-pack from Costco; also gloves with rubberized palms are good to have.   |
| <b>SAFETY GLASSES</b> | MUST have the ANSI "Z87" stamp on them. (Shaded glasses are preferred)  |
| <b>RAIN GEAR</b>      | <p>Quality rain gear is very important during the rainy and winter months. Cheap rain gear found at grocery and home retail stores will not hold up to the nature of the job or keep you dry and warm. Invest in name-brand Gore-Tex or Neoprene rain gear such as Stormr, Cabela's, Viking, etc.</p>   |
|                       |    |
| <b>WORK CLOTHES</b>   | <p>Required while climbing - Flame retardant (FR) shirts are not required.</p> <p>Your everyday clothing should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proper fitting</li> <li>- Not torn, frayed, or loose</li> </ul> <p>Loose-fitting clothes and clothing with manufactured holes or holes caused by wear are not acceptable. Long sleeve shirts and fleece hoodies are excellent investments as they will not only protect you but help keep you dry and comfortable. Tank tops and sleeveless shirts are NOT acceptable.</p>   |
|                       |    |

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>TOOL KITS</b> | <p>Line Roots Supply offers a specially priced tool kit for VOLTA Students<br/> <a href="https://www.linerootsnw.com">https://www.linerootsnw.com</a></p> <p><i>*See resources page at <a href="http://www.nwlinejatc.com">www.nwlinejatc.com</a> for additional tool information</i></p> |
|------------------|---|

## Tool Kit Options

When ordering, ask for the VOLTA tool kit; they will ask questions such as right or left handed, how tall you are, and pant sizing to help them determine the best fit for you. For information on body belt measurements, see the chart on following page.

| <b>Line Roots Supply - Tool Description</b>                                       |
|---|
| MADI Claw Milled Lineman Hammer (95-CMLH1)  |
| Fiberglass Folding Rule, Inside Reading 910-6                                     |
| Madi Blade Skinning Knife -Standard Blade   |
| MADI Insulated 4-in-1Ratcheting Speed Wrench -RW4                                 |
| Buckingham 5 Pocket Black Double Back Holster(42266-BL)                           |
| Buckingham Leather Nut & Bolt Bag With 3 Inside Pockets - 52993                   |
| Gated Handline Carrier © -2402G   |
| Steel Pole Climber with Footstraps- SB94089AT                                     |
| Cushion Wrap Pad w/ Cinch Loop & Angled Insert for Titanium/Steel Climbers -3502C |
| Snap On Gaff Guard - 6909A  |
| Milwaukee Lineman's 5-in-1Ratcheting Wrench w/Milled Face - 48-22-9216M           |
| Milwaukee 10-inch Straight Jaw Pliers - 48-22-6510                                |
| Milwaukee 12" Adjustable Wrench - 48-22-7412                                      |
| Buckingham BuckAdjuster™ with Tough Rope - 92C+R-8                                |
| EZ Squeeze™ with Black Tough Rope™ - 490K4  |
| Buckingham Climber Shield(41-10)  |
| Adjustable Short Back Belt™- 20192CM  |
| Klein Keystone Tip 7"Demolition Screw Driver(94-602-7DD)                          |
| Buck-heavy Duty Gear Bag -41333B3S  |
| Klein 9" Heavy-Duty Side Cutting Pliers (94-D2000-9NE)                            |
| <b><i>Does not include applicable tax and shipping</i></b>                        |

FarWest Line Specialties also offers a discounted tool kit for VOLTA Students.