

871—24.32(96) Training extension benefits.

24.32(1) Training extension benefits provide continued benefit eligibility, allowing an individual to pursue a training program for entry into a high-demand or high-technology occupation. Training extension benefits are available to an individual who voluntarily quit with good cause attributable to the employer or who was laid off or from full-time employment in a declining occupation or who was involuntarily separated from full-time employment due to a permanent reduction of operations.

24.32(2) The weekly benefit amount is pursuant to the same terms and conditions as regular unemployment benefits and the benefits are for a maximum of 26 times the weekly benefit amount of the claim that resulted in eligibility. Contributory and reimbursable employers will be relieved of charges for training extension benefits.

24.32(3) Enrollment must be full-time, as defined by the training institution, and courses must be designed to prepare the individual for a high-demand or high-technology occupation. The department will make available on its website and at workforce centers a list of high-demand, high-technology, and declining occupations.

a. High-technology occupations include life sciences, advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, alternative fuels, insurance, environmental technology, and technologically advanced green jobs. A high-technology occupation is one that requires a high degree of training in the sciences, engineering, or other advanced learning area and that has work opportunities available in the labor market area or the state of Iowa.

b. A high-demand occupation means an occupation in a labor market area or the state of Iowa as a whole in which the department determines that work opportunities are available.

c. A declining occupation has a lack of sufficient current demand in the individual's labor market area or the state of Iowa for the occupational skills possessed by the individual, and the lack of employment opportunities is expected to continue for an extended period of time.

d. A declining occupation includes an occupation for which there is a seasonal variation in demand in the labor market or the state of Iowa, and the individual has no other skill for which there is a current demand.

e. A declining or high-demand occupation will be determined by using Iowa labor market information for each region in the state.

24.32(4) The application for training benefits must be received within 30 days after state or federal benefits are exhausted. The individual must be enrolled and making satisfactory progress to complete the training program for training extension benefit eligibility to continue.

24.32(5) Training benefits will cease to be available if the training is completed, the individual quits the training course, the individual exhausts the training extension maximum benefit amount, or the individual fails to make satisfactory progress. Benefits will cease no later than the end of the benefit year in which the individual became eligible for the benefits. Individuals must file and receive benefits under any federal or state unemployment insurance benefit program until the benefits have been exhausted in order to maintain eligibility for training extension benefits.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 96.3(5).

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