



Water/Wastewater Systems Operation Specialist Registered Apprenticeship Program

New Mexico Rural Water Association
PO Box 92738, Albuquerque, NM 87199 – mailing
Phone (505) 884-1031 · Toll Free (800) 819-9893 · Fax (505) 884-1032
To Apply: <https://apprenticeship.nrwa.org> Website: <https://nmrwa.org>

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Launch Your Career as a Certified Water/Wastewater Operator

Join the **Registered Apprenticeship Program** with New Mexico Rural Water Assn

- 💧 Water and wastewater treatment professionals are more critical than ever.
- 💧 With increased service demands and an aging workforce, certified operators are in HIGH DEMAND across New Mexico and beyond.
- 💧 To meet this need, our 2-year nationally registered apprenticeship program prepares you for a rewarding career in water or wastewater systems operation. The program includes:
 - 📖 Coursework tailored for operators
 - 🔧 On-the-job training with experienced mentors
 - 📜 Certification through the New Mexico Environment Department

👛 What Operators Do

Water and Wastewater Operators work behind the scenes to protect health and the environment.

Their responsibilities include:

- Monitor chemical feed and other system components and effectiveness of treatment
- Prepare and maintain records of meter readings, tests, equipment, chemical use, correspondence, and customer complaint log.
- Develop a maintenance plan for the treatment plant and distribution system.
- Regularly read meters and gauges, making adjustments as needed.
- Periodically flush distribution system using hydrants and blow-off valves.
- Periodically assess efficiency of system components (e.g., pumps and valves).
- Conduct preventative and routine maintenance on facilities and equipment.
- Conduct frequent system and security inspections.
- Update system maps when a significant change to the distribution system has been made.
- Make all process control/system integrity decisions necessary to maintain the quality and quantity of water delivered to customers.
- Attend training to meet state primacy agency's continuing education requirements.
- Create and follow standard operating procedures (SOPs).

✅ What It Takes

Successful operators bring skill, discipline, and drive to the job. Apprentices should demonstrate:

- A strong work ethic and attention to safety
- Willingness to work varied shifts, including nights and holidays
- Solid math, science, and mechanical aptitude
- Ability to troubleshoot using charts, maps, and logical thinking
- Excellent communication skills – both verbal and written
- Physical stamina and vision for detailed inspection work
- Comfort working in potentially hazardous conditions

👥 Equal Opportunity Commitment

New Mexico Rural Water Association Water/Wastewater Systems Operation Specialist Apprenticeship Program will not discriminate against apprenticeship applicants or apprentices based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation, genetic information, or because they are an individual with a disability or a person 40 years old or older. The NM Rural Water Association Water/Wastewater Systems Operation Specialist Apprenticeship Program will take affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in apprenticeship and will operate the apprenticeship program as required under Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 30 and 11.2.2 NMAC.



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Minimum Qualifications

To apply, you must:

-  Be at least 18 years old (birth certificate or driver's license for proof)
-  Have a valid driver's license, insurable at standard commercial rates
-  Hold a high school diploma or GED (submit official transcripts or GED certificate)
-  Be physically capable of performing essential duties safely
-  Own a computer, email address, and internet connection for online training

 **Applications accepted year-round – apply online:**

 <https://apprenticeship.nrwa.org> > Click on "Get Started"

Upload required documentation:

 Driver's license, birth certificate, HS/GED/college transcript(s), DD 214 if applicable

Direct Entry Opportunities

Submit supporting documentation for potential direct entry if you've completed:

- Job Corps training
- Structured pre-apprenticeship
- Veteran service (DD 214 only – no transcript needed)
- YouthBuild water/wastewater training

What to Expect After You Apply

1. Interview invitation (via Zoom)
2. Summary of interview results
3. Employer interview when a position opens and a Level 2 Mentor is available
4. Interview with WIOA before hiring to confirm funding for RAP
5. Drug screening and background check may be required prior to selection or employment.

Graduation Requirements

To complete the program, apprentices must:

- Complete 4,000 on-the-job training hours
- Finish 288 classroom instruction hours
- Receive 2 satisfactory evaluations
- Attend 4 professional conferences
- Pass NM Environment Department Certification Exams Levels 1 & 2

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