

FareStart Apprenticeship Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the FareStart Apprenticeship Program?

The FareStart Apprenticeship Program is a paid, hands-on program focused on up-skilling, job training, and career advancement in the foodservice industry.

Who is this program for?

This program is for those who have had a job in foodservice or a related industry and would like to turn their experience into a *career*. Apprentices will identify a career goal and work to gain the skills needed to succeed in foodservice positions side-by-side with FareStart staff-mentors. Apprentices receive coaching on career paths and goal setting with their ability to step into a desired foodservice position upon completing their apprenticeship.

How is this program different from other FareStart training programs?

The Apprenticeship Program differs from our other FareStart programs in that it is designed to enhance your skills to advance your career and increase wages. Prior experience is required, which should be relevant to the apprentice track you wish to pursue. The program also differs in that assistance (i.e. housing, mental health) is not a service we collaborate with community partners to provide you with. You will be assigned a *Career Development Specialist* who will provide career coaching along the way but also able to provide information on community resources for you, should you need outside supports the program does not provide.

What career paths can I choose from?

It depends on *your* goal: the program offers a variety of pathways to successful careers. You will identify the “apprenticeship track” that you want to pursue, based on your relevant work experience and career goal(s). We will provide the opportunity to focus on distinct positions and styles of foodservice. You may train in FareStart facilities as a **Restaurant Server** or **Catering Captain**.

Why do I need to have work experience?

The program will draw on skills from your recent work experience to advance you in your career path. Your recent experience allows you to demonstrate commitment to learning new skills and provides a starting point for launching your career path. Work experience should be relevant to the track you want to pursue. For example, recent experience as a busser or similar, would be appropriate in applying for a Server Track. If you are unsure whether your work experience(s) qualify you for the track you want to pursue, please don’t hesitate to ask us!

What kind of skills will I learn?

All apprentices will have the opportunity to work on professional development and career-building skills. Technical skills will vary depending on individual goals: restaurant servers will learn about customer service, dining room operations, and food and beverage knowledge and catering captains will learn service, bartending, and overall production management.

How does this help my career?

Each pathway is designed to build your skills step-by-step. You will start at one position and move through a traditional career path. Once you complete the program you will have experience working in multiple positions, and be able to tell a “story” with your work history that shows you set goals, work hard to accomplish them, and demonstrate solid job skills.

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Am I paid for my time?

Yes, each apprentice will be paid a stipend of \$16 per hour for on the job training as well as classroom time.

What are the hours?

Hours vary depending on the track pursued and can include morning, evening or night shifts as well as Saturdays. If you have parameters around working particular hours, please communicate this with us as specified in the application. We will do our best to work with you and your schedule.

Apprentices will work a minimum of 30 hours (full time) a week and up to 40 based on availability and need. Exceptions to work less than 30 hours a week will be made on a case by case basis.

Anything else?

Call us at 206-787-1592 or email at apprenticeship@farestart.org