



FareStart Foodservice Apprenticeship Program: Frequently Asked Questions

What is FareStart's Foodservice Apprenticeship Program?

The Foodservice 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 people who have had a job in foodservice or a related industry and want to turn that into a *career*. Apprentices will identify a career goal and work to gain the skills needed to succeed in busy restaurants side-by-side with FareStart staff-mentors. Apprentices will also get coaching on career paths and goal setting.

How is this program different from other FareStart training programs?

The Foodservice 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. Through this program, we do not help provide assistance such as housing and mental health counseling. You will be assigned a Career Development Specialist who will provide career coaching along the way and can provide information on community resources for you, should you need outside support 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 "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. Service tracks include positions like **Restaurant Server, Bartender, Coffee Shop Lead**. Culinary tracks include: **Corporate Dining Lead Cook, Catering Cook and Restaurant Lead Line Cook**.

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; cooks will learn different kitchen stations and cooking methods; coffee shop employees will learn customer service, barista skills, and merchandising and display set-up and maintenance.

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.

Am I paid for my time?

Yes, each apprentice is paid a stipend of \$15 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. The following are the operating hours of each business with apprentice tracks:

Rise by FareStart (*coffee shop*) – Open M-F 7:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Community Table by FareStart (*Corporate Dining*) - Open M-F 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Maslow’s by FareStart (*full-service restaurant*) – Open M-Thurs 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. & Friday/Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

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