HOW TO ENROLL

BY MAIL
Complete and return a non-credit application and return it to us with payment to the address below.

BY PHONE
Contact us to register by phone at:
276.523.9114 or 276.523.9113

IN PERSON
Stop by our office to register in person. We are located at:
3441 Mountain Empire Road, Big Stone Gap, VA
Phillips-Taylor Hall, Room 224

Questions? Contact us at:
Phone: 276.523.9114 or 276.523.9113
Fax: 276.523.7481
MECC WORKFORCE STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“REACHING CAREER GOALS”

PEYTON

A quality education comes in many shapes and sizes. For some, that means living on campus at a four-year school and for others, it’s attending their local community college. Peyton Stallard happened to do both, securing a new job after earning a second education at Mountain Empire Community College.

While earning his bachelor’s degree, Stallard served as a junior member at his local rescue squad, a part-time gig that would soon become his full-time career. Right after graduating from high school, Stallard attended Liberty University where he played football for the college before transferring to UVa Wise where he completed a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice. During his senior year at Wise, he decided treating patients and helping people in his local community would be the career path he’d choose to pursue. Stallard inquired about several FastForward and other paramedic courses at Mountain Empire. Once completing his FastForward credential, he then enrolled in the EMT Technology program and in May 2021, Stallard completed an associate degree and passed the National Registry exam as a paramedic.

“When I was in high school, I always wanted to play college football, but soon learned that was not the environment for me,” Stallard said. “After wrapping up my bachelor’s, I went back to community college where I felt I received a better education. Because the teacher to student ratio was much smaller, I was able to receive hands-on support. Plus, a lot of my instructors are locals, which added a personal element and ‘hometown experience.’”

The program and courses Stallard completed ensured he would be hired after graduation, and two weeks post commencement, he was hired at Sullivan County EMS.

“A word of advice to anyone about to graduate high school or those looking to go back to school, don’t snub your nose at community college. Mountain Empire has amazing instructors who also have other professions, meaning they’re knowledgeable and experienced. They’re good at their job.”

If you’re thinking about going back to school, or enrolling for the first time, but don’t know where to start, contact your local career coach today. They’ll help you to discover your strengths and interests to determine the right career path for you.

“A DECENT JOB NEAR HOME”

MICHAEL

Michael faced several challenges in finding and keeping a job. He wanted a job that was close to home that might allow him to deal with his own and his family’s health issues. Then he heard about the Commercial Drivers License (CDL) training at the Center for Workforce Innovation of Appalachia.

Part of Michael’s truck driving training program included RACE 1 Adult Education services. The driver training included map reading and trucking atlas skills and improved their reading and math abilities. When asked why he chose to take this training, Michael said, “I needed help to get a decent job and this program allowed me to do my job to the best of my abilities.”

For others interested in jumping into the CDL job market, Michael now shares a job search tip that he learned in class. When filling out online applications with employers, he encourages candidates to be sure to follow up with a phone call or email. Michael reflects that it felt good to return to classes and that having training so close to home made attending more convenient. After completing the program at the CWIA, Michael was hired by a company in Wise County to make local deliveries. The CWIA and RACE 1 helped to make that possible!

WHAT CAN CWIA OFFER YOU?

Auditorium Space: Can seat up to 155 people.
Stage: Can be used for meetings, plays, weddings, movies, etc.
Computer Lab: Can seat up to 25 people (25 new Dell desktops with printing capability)

FEDERAL/STATE AID/VIRGINIA’S G3

BENEFIT: Will pay for the cost of tuition and college-related expenses.
REQUIREMENT: Complete the Federal Application for Federal Student Aid at fafsa.gov or FANTIC application for non-credit courses. Amount of aid is determined by income, family size, etc. Student must be a Virginia resident (DOMICILED in Virginia) to receive state and G3 funds.

FAST FORWARD

BENEFIT: Will pay two thirds of the full cost for any approved program.
REQUIREMENT: Student must be a Virginia resident for the last 12 months (DOMICILED in Virginia) and complete the application.

FINANCIAL AID FOR NONCREDIT INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS (FANTIC)

BENEFIT: Will pay full first third of any FastForward Program.
REQUIREMENT: Student must be a Virginia resident (DOMICILED in Virginia), complete application and provide documentation verifying financial need. This program is income based if your current adjusted income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

VCEDA – VIRGINIA COALFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BENEFIT: Will pay full first third of VCEDA approved classes.
REQUIREMENT: Student must be a Virginia resident (DOMICILED in Virginia) and live in one of the following counties or cities in the Coalfield Region: Lee, Scott, Wise, Dickenson, City of Norton, Russell, Buchanan, and Tazewell. Contact Vicki Rutledge or Lee Davis for info.

VIRGINIA READY STATE AID (VRSA)

BENEFIT: Will pay full first third of specific FastForward Program PLUS $1,000 if student obtains the related credential.
REQUIREMENT: Student must be a Virginia resident (DOMICILED in Virginia), apply to become a Virginia Ready Scholar, be approved, and complete an application.

WIOA - WORKFORCE INNOVATION ACT

BENEFIT: Will pay tuition, gas reimbursement, childcare, etc.
REQUIREMENT: Student must meet WIOA eligible requirements. Can contact case managers for more information. Case managers based on county of student resident.
MECC’s Center for Workforce & Innovation of Appalachia designs timely, customized training programs to address the ever-changing opportunities and challenges faced by employers. Based on results of training needs assessments, the College designs and implements Custom Training Programs to update and improve the workforce skills, increase employee engagement, and improve company performance to help achieve organizational goals.

Customized training focuses on skills that improve:

- Organizational productivity (team building, management and leadership, coaching, or lean manufacturing);
- Individual productivity (time management, managing stress, communication, or customer service);
- Computer skills (cybersecurity, networking, technical certifications, or customized applications); and job specific skills (manufacturing and trade skills, logistics and transportation, health and wellness, CPR, OSHA, and many others).

Check out https://www.mecc.edu/ for more details.
Virginia Emergency Medical Technician
- Prepares students for certification as a Virginia and National Registry Emergency Medical Technician. Includes all aspects of pre-hospital basic life support, trauma, and medical care as defined by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services Education Standards for Emergency Medicine Technicians. Fast Forward Grants Now Available

Virginia EMT or RN Bridge to EMT Paramedic
- Prepares EMTs for certification as a Virginia and National Registry Advanced Emergency Medical Technician. Includes all aspects of pre-hospital basic life support, trauma, and medical care as defined by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services Education Standards for Emergency Medicine Technicians. Fast Forward Grants Now Available

Surface Retaining
- Experienced miners are required to receive 8 hours of annual refresher training to keep them aware of good safety practices at their operation.

Underground Retaining
- Experienced miners are required to receive 8 hours of annual refresher training to keep them aware of good safety practices at their operation.

Underground General Coal Miner
- Authorizes an individual not previously employed in the Commonwealth as a coal miner to work at underground coal mines.

See the full mining course catalog at MECC.edu/mining-non-credit-classes/Commercial-License-Class-3

TRANSPORTATION COURSE CATALOG

Commercial License Class A
- Prepares students with the knowledge and skills to take the Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) exam. Students must have a valid Virginia Driver’s License. Students must pass the Department of Transportation physical exam, drug test, and their written test/learner’s permit with the Department of Motor Vehicles prior to instruction.

Commercial License Class A Re-test (Knowledge)
- Class will offer training to students who have failed the CDL Knowledge Exam 3 times. Student must attend 40 hours of training to retest for the exam.

Defensive Driving
- Students will learn defensive driving techniques that can help you avoid and prevent crashes. This is an eight hour classroom session approved by the VA Department of Motor Vehicles. If you are required by the court to attend a driver improvement clinic, the court will determine if you are to be awarded safe driving points. You must present documentation from the court to the driver improvement clinic that you attended before DMV can award points.

Safe driving points will not be awarded if the clinic does not receive this documentation.

Commercial License Class A Re-test (Skills)
- Class will offer training to students who have failed the CDL Skills Exam 3 times. Student must attend 50hrs of training to retest for the exam.

WORKPLACE SAFETY COURSE CATALOG

Lift Truck Training
- Provides students with the knowledge necessary to operate and control a lift truck both safely and effectively.

OSHA 10 General Industry
- OSHA 10 General Industry is designed to familiarize workers with OSHA standards as well as safety and health hazards common to the workplace.

OSHA 10 Healthcare Emphasis
- OSHA 10 Healthcare is designed to familiarize workers with OSHA standards as well as safety and health hazards common to the healthcare industry.

OSHA 10 Construction
- OSHA 10 Construction is designed to familiarize workers with OSHA standards as well as safety and health hazards common to the workplace.

PUBLIC SAFETY COURSE CATALOG

Concealed Weapons
- Discusses and explores safe firearms handling, laws, and procedures to acquire a concealed weapons permit. Offers classes and range training.

Security Officer In-Service
- Security Officer In-Service class is a 4 hour course required for all security officers registered with D.C.J.S. every 24 months. The in class and officer’s training and can be on any subject that relates to private security.

Firearms Recertification
- Firearms Recertification class is a 4 hour course required for all armed registered personnel within 90 days of expiration with D.C.J.S. and code listed as 07R for handgun and 08R for shotgun. The firearms training includes classroom safety, proper procedures and use of firearms that also requires students to qualify with firearm on specified range with minimum of 75% or higher.