

## FAQs

**Question:** Is it mandatory to attend a PSI information session?

**Answer:** It is strongly encouraged you attend an information session in your area to receive an overview of the program and the proper tools needed to move forward in the process. No RSVP is required to attend the session as the event is open to the public.

**Question:** What do I bring to an information session?

**Answer:** Please bring a notebook and a pen/pencil. Friends or family members are welcome to join you for support.

**Question:** What is the difference between a line worker and a substation electrician?

**Answer:** By attending an information session in your area, FirstEnergy will provide an overview and describe the similarities and differences between an electric utility line worker and a substation electrician. Typically, a line worker works on the electric system above the ground and needs to be comfortable working at heights. A substation electrician works on the ground in an electrical substation or an underground electrical vault.

**Question:** Is FirstEnergy assisting with tuition and/or other costs associated with the PSI Program?

**Answer:** FirstEnergy will be offering financial aid to qualified students. Additional information on this topic will be presented at the information sessions.

**Question:** How do I know which college partner is right for me?

**Answer:** Generally speaking, college partners are selected to support the hiring needs of a specific FirstEnergy utility. Interested candidates should attend an information session for the college partner that supports the FirstEnergy utility you reside in. For example, Ohio Edison serves the Akron, Ohio, area and Penelec serves the Erie, Pa., area.

**Question:** When do classes start for the next upcoming PSI Program?

**Answer:** Classes start in the fall of each year and are established by the college's academic calendar.

**Question:** Is the PSI program an apprenticeship?

**Answer:** While the PSI program is not an apprenticeship, the 21-month program is structured for accepted students to receive both hands-on utility training and academic coursework to obtain an Associate's Degree in Electric Utility Technology, along with the opportunity to participate in a compensated 10-week evaluated field experience with one of FirstEnergy's utilities.

**Question:** When will I know if I made it into the PSI program?

**Answer:** After completing the last step in the selection process, the management/HR interview. This is usually just before the start of the fall semester so you will need to be prepared to move quickly if you are relocating and need to secure housing.

**Question:** I need developmental courses that will interfere with Qualifying Climb School dates. Will I still be able to start the program?

**Answer:** Successful completion of the Qualifying Climb School is mandatory to begin the program this year. We recommend you work with the college to explore other options for completing your developmental course, such as night classes, online classes etc. If a solution is not available, interested candidates should move forward with academic courses and revisit the PSI selection process next year.

**Question:** Do I get paid while completing the program?

**Answer:** You are not compensated for participating in the program. During the required 10-week evaluated field experience, between your first and second year, you will be compensated provided you show up to work and maintain appropriate expectations.

**Question:** I need to maintain my employment while participating in the program. Is there any flexibility when you attend classes and/or hands on training?

**Answer:** Unfortunately, no. Classes are scheduled Monday – Friday typically between the hours of 7:00 am and 4:00 pm

**Question:** My drivers' license is currently suspended. Will I still be able to participate in the program?

**Answer:** You must have a valid drivers' license and a reasonably clean (low points) driving record to be accepted into the program. You will be required to obtain a CDL-A as part of this training program and maintain the CDL-A as a condition of the program and future employment. Should you have questions about this expectation and requirement, you should contact the recruiter to discuss.

**Question:** Will charges on my background keep me from getting into the program?

**Answer:** The results of background investigations are reviewed with our legal department and management teams. FirstEnergy takes into consideration several factors. For example, severity of convictions, how long ago the event took place, age of the individual at the time of the conviction, and any repeat offenses.

**Question:** I already have a college degree. Will this allow me to complete the program sooner?

**Answer:** No. PSI is a lock-step program and will take 21 months to complete. If you already have a college degree, any credits that the college will allow to transfer will just mean less college classes you have to take throughout the duration of the program.

**Question:** If I complete the PSI program, am I guaranteed a job?

**Answer:** Completion of the program prepares you for a job in the electric utility industry. However, completion of the program does not guarantee a job offer from FirstEnergy. Students who successfully complete the program will be eligible for employment with FirstEnergy as determined by our hiring needs.