

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

LINDSEY S WHARTON
Claimant

APPEAL 18A-UI-06440-SC-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 06/03/18
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(6)a – Department Approved Training
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.39 – Department Approved Training

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Lindsey S. Wharton (claimant) appealed the June 7, 2018, reference 01, unemployment insurance decision that denied department approved training. After due notice was issued, a telephone hearing was held on June 27, 2018. The claimant participated.

ISSUE:

Is the claimant eligible for department-approved training?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant filed a claim for benefits effective June 3, 2018. She applied for department-approved training on June 6, 2018. The claimant is enrolled full-time in a program to obtain a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration through Upper Iowa University. The program typically takes four years to complete and the claimant has been working toward her degree intermittently since 2005. She began the summer semester on May 24, 2018. She is currently enrolled in Macroeconomics, Introduction to Computer Applications and Technology, English Composition II, Women and Literature, and Diversity in the United States. She expects to complete her degree by July 2019. The claimant currently has been satisfactorily attending classes and has the necessary finances to complete the training.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant is not eligible to for department approved training.

Iowa Code § 96.4(6)a provides:

An otherwise eligible individual shall not be denied benefits for any week because the individual is in training with the approval of the director, nor shall the

individual be denied benefits with respect to any week in which the individual is in training with the approval of the director by reason of the application of provision in subsection 3 of this section relating to availability for work, and an active search for work or the provision of section 96.5, subsection 3, relating to failure to apply for or a refusal to accept suitable work. However, an employer's account shall not be charged with benefits so paid.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.39 provides:

Department-Approved Training or Retraining Program.

The intent of department-approved training is to allow for claimants to return to the labor market after attending vocational training while being paid unemployment insurance benefits. Vocational training is nonacademic, skill-oriented training that provides the student with job tools and skills that can be used in the workplace. Vocational training includes technical, skill-based, or job readiness training intended for pursuing a career. Upon approval from the department, the claimant shall be exempt from the work search requirement for continued eligibility for benefits. In order to be eligible for department-approved training programs and to maintain continuing participation therein, the individual shall meet the following requirements:

(1) The claimant must make application to the department setting out the following:

- a. The educational establishment at which the claimant would receive training.
- b. The estimated time required for such training.
- c. The date the training will be complete or the degree will be obtained.
- d. The occupation which the training is allowing the claimant to maintain or pursue.
- e. The training plan, indicating the requirements which must be met in order to complete the certification or degree.

(2) A claimant may receive unemployment insurance while attending a training course approved by the department, under the following conditions:

- a. The educational establishment must be a college, university or technical training institute.
- b. The training must be completed 104 weeks or less from the start date.
- c. The individual must be enrolled and attending the training program as a full-time student.

While attending the approved training course, the claimant need not be available for work or actively seeking work. After completion of department-approved training, the claimant must, in order to continue to be eligible for unemployment insurance, place no restriction on employability. The claimant must be able to work, be available for work, and be actively searching for work. In addition, the claimant may be subject to disqualification for any refusal of work without good cause after the claimant has completed the training.

(3) The claimant must show satisfactory attendance and progress in the training course prior to being considered for a subsequent approval and must

demonstrate that such claimant has the necessary finances to complete the training to substantiate the expenditure of unemployment insurance funds.

The claimant does not meet the eligibility requirements for department-approved training because the training being sought is academic, and not vocational, in nature. Additionally, the program cannot be completed within 104 weeks or less from the start date. Therefore, while the claimant's desire for additional education is understandable and admirable, department approved training must be denied.

DECISION:

The June 7, 2018, reference 01, unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The claimant is not eligible for department-approved training.

Stephanie R. Callahan
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

src/scn