

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

**BRIAN D CARMAN**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO: 20A-UI-01741-B2T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 02/02/20**  
**Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.4-6 – Department Approved Training  
871 IA Admin. Code § 24.39 – Department Approved Training

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Claimant appealed an unemployment insurance decision dated February 25, 2020, reference 03, which denied his request for department approved training benefits. After a hearing notice was mailed to the party's last-known address of record, a telephone hearing was held on March 13, 2020. Claimant participated in the hearing. Department Exhibit 1 was entered into evidence. Based on the evidence, the arguments of the party, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law, and decision.

**ISSUE:**

The issue is whether the claimant is eligible to receive department approved training?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: Claimant had been working in shipping for Creative Edge. The claimant separated from his employer on January 17, 2020. He established a claim for benefits during the week of February 2, 2020.

Claimant has begun taking full time classes at Indian Hills Community College in Industrial Maintenance. Claimant is making progress towards finishing his studies in November 2020. This is definitely a higher skilled job than the job claimant had been working. His classes require him to be at school from 8-4:30 every day, and also some evenings.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Iowa Code section 96.4(6)a-b provides:

6. a. 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 the 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.

b. (1) An otherwise eligible individual shall not be denied benefits for a week because the individual is in training approved under 19 U.S.C. section 2296(a), as amended by section 2506 of the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, because the individual leaves work which is not suitable employment to enter the approved training, or because of the application of subsection 3 of this section or section 96.5, subsection 3, or a federal unemployment insurance law administered by the department relating to availability for work, active search for work, or refusal to accept work.

(2) For purposes of this paragraph, "suitable employment" means work of a substantially equal or higher skill level than an individual's past adversely affected employment, as defined in 19 U.S.C. section 2319(l), if weekly wages for the work are not less than eighty percent of the individual's average weekly wage.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.39 provides:

Department-approved training. 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 institution.
- 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.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 96.4(6).

The issue is whether the claimant qualifies for department approved training. For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant is eligible to receive department approved training benefits.

In the case herein, the claimant established the above criteria. The claimant does qualify for department approved training.

**DECISION:**

The unemployment insurance decision dated February 25, 2020, reference 03, is reversed. The claimant is eligible for department approved training benefits.

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Blair A. Bennett  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

bab/scn