



Earning Your Massachusetts Electrical License – A How-To Guide

Becoming a licensed electrician in Massachusetts sets you up for steady work, strong wages, and a respected career you can amp up for decades. From apprenticeship to journeyman and becoming a master electrician, discover the scope of work for each license, its benefits, and how a career in the Massachusetts electrical industry will set you up for a thriving future.



Did You Know?

Did you know that Contractor Training Center has helped more than 30,000 professionals achieve their licensure goals? And 90% of those students pass their exam on the first try!

Table Of Contents

- Why Become an Electrician in Massachusetts 1**

- Types of Electrical Licenses 2**

- Steps to Obtaining an Electrical License 4**

- After-License Requirements 7**

- The Future is Bright for Massachusetts Electricians 9**

- How Contractor Training Center Can Help 15**

This guide is designed to help you reach your licensing goals by breaking down everything you need to know, step by step. You'll get a clear understanding of each license type, what work it covers, and the specific education and experience required. We'll also explain how the PSI exams are structured, what topics they test, and how to study effectively using the right reference books. From there, you'll learn how to complete your application, what fees to expect, and what to do after you pass—such as securing insurance, renewing your license, and completing continuing education. Finally, we'll show how Contractor Training Center can support you every step of the way—from exam prep to licensure and beyond.

Why Become an Electrician in Massachusetts

Massachusetts is a wonderful place to build a career in the trades. Electricians in Massachusetts benefit from strong wages, reliable project pipelines, and a credential that travels with you across residential, commercial, and industrial settings. The field evolves with technology—think EV charging, solar and storage, microgrids, data centers, and advanced controls—so you can specialize over time or broaden your scope as opportunities grow.

Licensing also protects you legally. It's required to perform electrical work, to pull permits, and to pass inspections; it keeps you on the right side of Massachusetts Electrical Code (527 CMR) and local authorities, and it reduces risk for you, your employer, and your clients.

Types of Electrical Licenses in Massachusetts

Massachusetts divides electrical licensing into several classifications. By understanding the licensing landscape, it will help you plan your path to achieving your professional goals.

License Type	Scope of Work	Typical Requirements
Apprentice Electrician	Works under supervision; training stage	Registration with BSEE; accumulating work hours (e.g., 8,000 hours) + classroom instruction.
Journeyman Electrician (Class B)	Performs electrical work under a Master license	4 years (~8,000 hours) of on-the-job work + 600 hours of classroom instruction.
Master Electrician (Class A)	Own business, supervise others, pull permits	Must hold Journeyman license + at least 1 year (~2,000 hours) experience + 150 hours of classroom instruction.
Systems Contractor/Systems Technician (Class C & D)	Limited-energy systems (fire alarms, telecom, security)	Varies: e.g., Systems Technician: 4,000 hours + 300 hours education; Systems Contractor: 1 year as tech + 75 hours education.

Electrical License Levels Explained

The typical entry point is the **Apprentice** registration. As an Apprentice, you work under the direct supervision of a Journeyman or Master, learning safe practices and code basics while you earn hours toward your license. Apprentices don't perform unsupervised installations but gain hands-on experience that counts toward the next step.

The **Journeyman Electrician (Class B)** license is the core working license for installations. Journeymen install, repair, and maintain electrical systems in compliance with Massachusetts code and can supervise apprentices on the job. This is the credential most working electricians hold day-to-day.

The **Master Electrician (Class A)** license allows you to run an electrical contracting business and pull permits. Masters plan and lay out systems, supervise Journeymen and Apprentices, and contract with the public. If your long-term goal is to lead projects, bid work, or own a shop, the Master license is your target.

For low-voltage work and life-safety systems, Massachusetts offers **Systems Technician (Class D)** and **Systems Contractor (Class C)** licenses. Systems Technicians install and service limited-energy systems like fire alarms, security, and telecoms under proper supervision. Systems Contractors oversee design and installation, supervise technicians, and pull permits for systems work. If you're drawn to fire alarms, networking, or controls, these licenses open up that path for you.



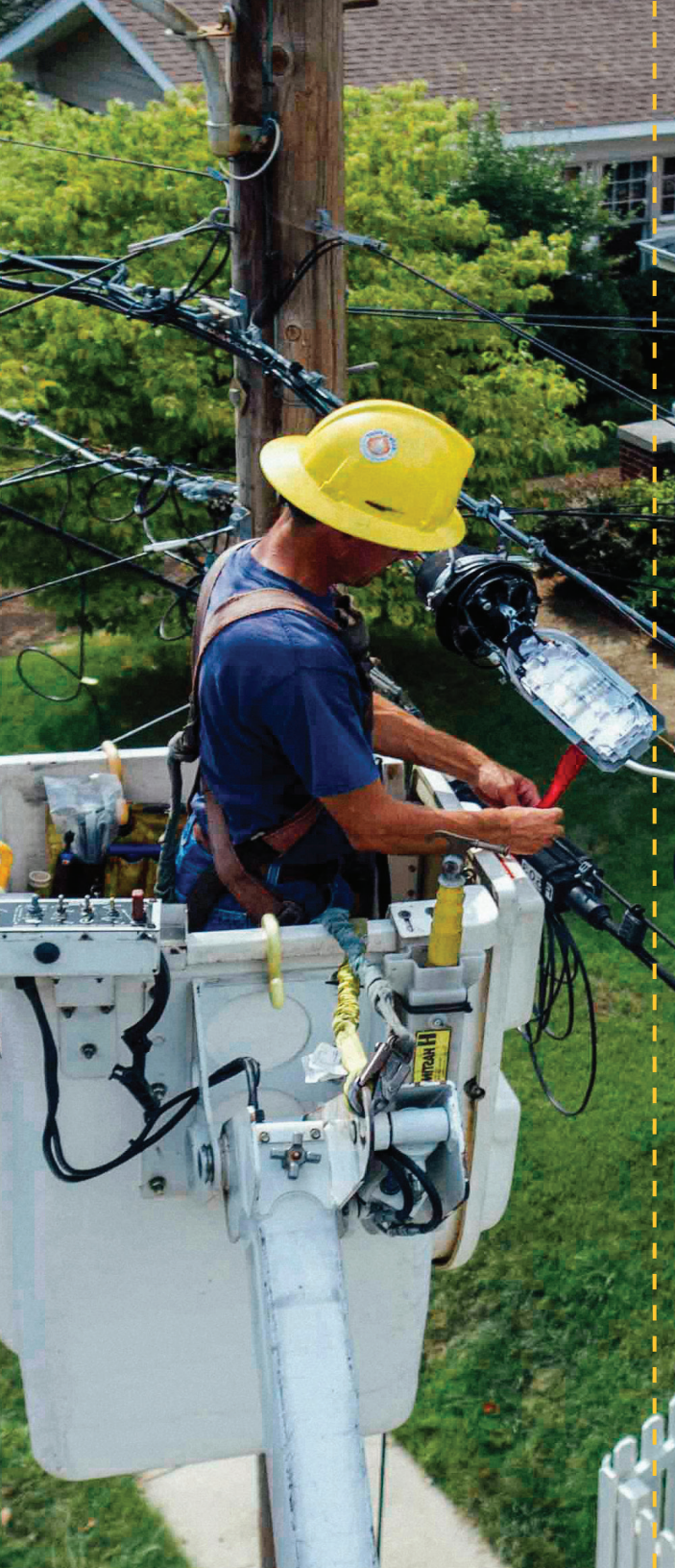
Steps to Obtaining an Electrical License

Electrical licensing in Massachusetts is administered by the [Board of State Examiners of Electricians](#) (BSEE) under the Division of Occupational Licensure (DOL). The Board oversees all license classes, approves education programs, and enforces [527 CMR 12.00, the Massachusetts Electrical Code](#), which adopts the 2023 National Electrical Code (NEC) with state-specific amendments.

Examinations are conducted by PSI Services LLC, the state's official testing vendor. Candidates apply directly through PSI for both exam eligibility and scheduling, using the most recent Massachusetts Electrician Candidate Information Bulletin (CIB) as their primary reference for eligibility, fees, permitted materials, and testing procedures. Bookmark these essential resources:

- [Massachusetts Electrical Code | Mass.gov](#)
- [PSI Candidate Information Bulletin \(CIB\)](#)





Experience and Education Requirements

Massachusetts maintains one of the nation's most structured and rigorous licensing frameworks, combining hands-on experience with formal education:

- **Journeyman Electrician:** Requires at least 8,000 hours (approximately four years) of supervised on-the-job training and 600 hours of classroom instruction from a BSEE-approved school.
- **Master Electrician:** Requires an active Journeyman license, 2,000 hours (one year) of additional experience as a Journeyman, and 150 hours of advanced coursework in subjects like estimating, business management, and advanced code application.
- **Systems Technician** (for low-voltage, fire alarm, security, and communications work): Requires 4,000 hours of related systems experience and 300 hours of technical education.
- **Systems Contractor:** Requires one year as a licensed Systems Technician and 75 hours of additional coursework, typically focused on supervision, code compliance, and design responsibilities.

Always verify the latest requirements on the [Massachusetts Board of State Examiners of Electricians site](#) or within the current PSI bulletin, as regulations and hour minimums may change.

Exam Format and Preparation

Once education and experience requirements are met, candidates apply through PSI for eligibility verification. Exams are open-book, divided into two parts—theory and practical application—and administered at several test centers across the state. Candidates only need to retake the portion they do not pass.

Exams reference 527 CMR 12.00 (2023 NEC with MA amendments) and, for systems candidates, codes such as NFPA 72 (National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code). Expect questions on wiring methods, conductor sizing, load calculations, and Massachusetts-specific modifications to the NEC.

Exam prep courses tailored to Massachusetts can significantly boost your performance. Look for:

- Instruction aligned to 527 CMR 12.00 and PSI's open-book rules
- Instructor-led walkthroughs of code questions and calculations
- Guidance on highlighting, tabbing, and note limitations per PSI policy
- Timed practice exams that simulate PSI's environment

Preparation Tip: Treat code navigation as a learned skill. Use the NEC index, annexes, and tables until you can quickly locate sections under exam pressure. Build a study plan around core topics:

- Wiring and protection
- Grounding and bonding
- Equipment for general use
- Calculations and load determination
- Massachusetts amendments and local code differences

Approved references generally include the NEC 2023, Massachusetts amendments, and applicable NFPA standards. PSI allows highlighting, underlining, and brief margin notes—review the CIB for details on permitted materials and calculators.

Upon passing both portions of the exam, pay the initial license issuance fee via PSI as directed. The Board then processes your license and adds you to the state registry of licensed electricians.

After-Licensure Requirements

Once licensed, your job is not done. To keep doing your work, electricians in Massachusetts must meet ongoing legal and professional obligations to ensure good standing.

Insurance and Business Compliance

If you plan to operate as a Master Electrician or Systems Contractor, you must maintain:

- General liability insurance, meeting the state's minimum coverage standards
- Workers' compensation insurance for any employees
- Any bonding or permit documentation required by your local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)

Municipalities may require additional proof of insurance or surety bonds before issuing electrical permits, so confirm these requirements with your city or town's building department.



License Renewal and Continuing Education

All electrician licenses in Massachusetts must be renewed every three years. Renewal requires proof of 21 hours of continuing education, broken down as:

- 15 hours of Massachusetts-specific code-update training, focused on NEC changes and state amendments
- 6 hours of professional development, covering topics such as safety, business practices, or emerging technology



Approved continuing education ensures electricians stay current with new code cycles, energy-efficiency requirements, and evolving standards like EV infrastructure and renewable-system integration.

Choose reputable, Board-approved CE providers. Your chosen provider must report your education completion directly to the Board. However, it is imperative that you also keep certificates for your records, as random audits may occur.

Renewal fees vary slightly by license class but generally range from \$78–\$117, according to the Division of Occupational Licensure’s current schedule. Late renewals may incur additional reinstatement fees.

Why Ongoing Education Matters

The electrical trade in Massachusetts is advancing rapidly. The rollout of the 2023 NEC, statewide electrification incentives, and new technologies such as battery storage, EV charging, and smart building controls are redefining the skills electricians need. Continuing education not only maintains your license but also positions you to take advantage of higher-paying specializations and emerging market opportunities in a clean-energy economy.

The Future is Bright for Massachusetts Electricians

The job outlook for electricians in Massachusetts is consistently strong. Major project work in Greater Boston and regional hubs, ongoing building upgrades, and clean-energy initiatives create steady demand for skilled labor. Wages are competitive statewide and rise with experience, overtime, union membership, and specialization in areas like solar and storage, EV infrastructure, healthcare facilities, and industrial controls.

Looking ahead, now is an excellent time to earn your electrical license in Massachusetts. State policy, mega-projects, and market pay are lining up to create durable demand for licensed electricians over the next decade.



Demand Drivers to Bank On

- **Decarbonization is now the law.** Massachusetts must **cut greenhouse-gas emissions at least 50% by 2030** and reach net-zero by 2050. The state's Decarbonization Roadmap explicitly leans on electrification of buildings and transportation—work that requires licensed electricians for service upgrades, controls, and interconnection.
- **Stronger building energy codes.** Dozens of municipalities have adopted the **Opt-in Specialized Stretch Energy Code**, which tightens efficiency and “electric-ready” requirements for new construction and major renovations. That translates to more panels, wiring, and controls scope per project.
- **Heat-pump surge.** The Commonwealth's climate plans target at least 500,000 homes with heat pumps by 2030, backed by a multi-billion-dollar **Mass Save** investment cycle (2025–2027 plan ~\$5B) and robust consumer rebates—driving sustained residential and light-commercial electrical work. In 2024 alone, 40,000 homes added heat pumps via Mass Save programs.
- **EV charging build-out.** Massachusetts agencies are accelerating public and workplace charging to meet climate targets; the EV Infrastructure Coordinating Council reports continued progress and additional funding, with state facilities alone targeted to reach **350 chargers by 2025 and 500 by 2030** under “Leading by Example.” Electricians with EVSE experience are already busy on curbside, fleet, and highway sites.
- **Offshore wind and grid upgrades.** The state has authorized up to 5.6 GW of offshore wind procurement and is actively bringing projects online (e.g., Vineyard Wind 1, delivering power since 2024; New England Wind approved in 2024). These create multi-year hiring waves in substations, transmission, and port electrification—work that demands high-skill electricians and controls techs.

Pay and Outlook

Nationally, **employment of electricians is projected to grow** by about 9% from 2024 to 2034, which is faster than the average for all occupations. This growth is driven by construction activity, retrofits of existing buildings, growth in EV infrastructure, increased energy-storage installation, and grid modernization.

Massachusetts is positioned to benefit strongly from these trends, owing to aggressive state policy for building decarbonization, electrification of heat and transport, and major infrastructure/clean-energy projects. Local wage levels are already competitive and climbing with overtime, union membership, specialization (such as solar/storage, EV charging, healthcare facility systems, and industrial controls).

For example: one recent listing shows the average for a **Massachusetts electrician (non-apprentice) at about \$39.60/hour** for base pay.



Wage Snapshot by Career Level

Below is a chart of typical compensation ranges in Massachusetts for key career levels: Apprentice, Journeyman, Master Electrician, and Service/Contractor (or Senior Technician). These are approximate and will vary by geography (Boston vs. rural MA), union vs non-union shop, overtime, benefits, and specialization.

Career Level	Approximate Hourly/ Base Pay*	Approximate Annual Pay†
Apprentice	~\$24-\$29/hr	~\$50,000-\$60,000 (early)
Journeyman (Licensed)	~\$40-\$50+/hr	~\$80,000-\$100,000+
Master Electrician	~\$45-\$60+/hr	~\$90,000-\$120,000+ (in metro Boston)
Service Technician/ Contractor (senior, business owner, systems specialist)	Varies widely: \$60+/hr, and with business ownership could exceed \$150K/yr	~\$90,000-\$120,000+ (in metro Boston)

* Hourly base pay is approximate and excludes overtime, bonus, business profit (for contractor/owner), fringe benefits (health, retirement) which are significant.

† Annual pay is an approximate conversion of hourly x full-time hours + overtime, not a guarantee.

Regional Pay-Differences Across Massachusetts

Region	Typical Hourly/Base Pay*	Notes & Data Sources
<p>Greater Boston / Metro Boston / I-495 corridor</p>	<p>Journeyman inside union “Inside Agreement” rate: ~ \$100-110/hr total package (~\$61-65 base + fringes) in the Boston area for 2024–2025.</p>	<p>Union wage sheet for IBEW Local 103 & Boston Chapter NECA shows “Journeyman” package rate listing \$105.11 total for the period March 1, 2024–Aug 31, 2024.</p>
<p>Worcester / Central Massachusetts</p>	<p>Slightly lower than Boston metro; non-union journeyman listings often in the \$40-50 /hr ~\$80-100k/yr) range. For example, a listing for Journeyman Electrician MA shows average ~\$42.88/hr statewide.</p>	<p>Union wage sheet for IBEW Local 103 & Boston Chapter NECA shows “Journeyman” package rate listing \$105.11 total for the period March 1, 2024–Aug 31, 2024.</p>
<p>Western Massachusetts / Rural regions</p>	<p>Base pay tends to track state average but may fall below metro rates. A statewide average of ~\$39.70/hr is reported by Indeed for electricians across MA.</p>	<p>Rural and smaller-town work tends to have fewer large-scale mega-projects, so premium rates may be rarer.</p>
<p>Cape & Islands / Resort-coastal areas</p>	<p>Some listings show pay 5-10% above statewide average in top towns (e.g., Nantucket ~\$75,540/yr (~\$36/hr average reported) in one dataset).</p>	<p>Higher cost of living and seasonal demands may push pay slightly higher, but numbers are still below large-metro union full-package rates.</p>

* These are base or listed hourly wages or conversions; they may exclude overtime, fringe benefits, union package components, or bonuses. All pay information is compiled from Salary.com, Indeed.com, and ZipRecruiter.com.

Why Now is a Good Time to be a MA Electrician

- State policy and large-scale programs in Massachusetts create multi-year demand, which helps lift wage levels and stability of employment.
- As you rise from apprentice > journeyman > master > specialist/owner, wage increments, and career options multiply — the chart above demonstrates that.
- Specialization (solar & storage, EV charger installation, industrial controls, healthcare systems) offers wage premiums above the “general” electrician rate; so, building those skills now gives you leverage.
- Union rates in metro regions (e.g., Boston IBEW) already reflect higher pay packages, which helps set the “ceiling” for what high-end licensed electricians can earn.

Massachusetts isn't just “busy”—it's structurally committed to electrification. If you power up your license now and stack skills in heat pumps, EVSE, storage, and controls, you'll be stepping into a market with strong pay and a multi-year runway of work.



How Contractor Training Center Can Help

Preparing for the Massachusetts electrical license exam is a major milestone—and at Contractor Training Center (CTC), we've built our program to match exactly how Massachusetts tests, teaches, and enforces the trade.

Our Massachusetts Electrical Exam Prep Program is designed from the ground up around PSI's official exam structure and the 2023 Massachusetts Electrical Code (527 CMR 12.00). Every module, quiz, and practice test aligns directly with what you'll see on exam day—no filler, no outdated content, and no guesswork.



What Sets CTC's Massachusetts Exam Prep Apart

CTC's blended format combines the flexibility of self-paced study with the accountability and feedback of live instruction. You'll have access to:

- Interactive on-demand modules that break down NEC and Massachusetts amendments into digestible, real-world examples.
- Live weekly webinars and office hours with experienced instructors who are licensed electricians and exam specialists.
- Adaptive practice quizzes and full-length mock exams with detailed, code-cited rationales to reinforce not just what's correct—but why.
- Open-book exam strategy coaching, including how to tab, highlight, and organize your NEC and 527 CMR 12.00 references within PSI's permitted-materials rules, so you can find answers fast under time pressure.

Feature	Why It Matters
Expert-Led Learning	Learn directly from licensed Massachusetts electricians who know both the trade and the PSI test—so you get real-world insights, not recycled slides.
Efficient Format	Short, focused webinars and modules that respect your schedule while keeping you moving toward your goal.
No-Fluff Content	Every lesson aligns to PSI's Candidate Information Bulletin and Massachusetts' enforced code—no wasted time on topics that won't appear on your exam.
Always Current	Our curriculum is continuously updated to match the latest NEC 2023 changes and 527 CMR 12.00 amendments, ensuring you're never studying from outdated material.
Built for Massachusetts	Unlike generic "national" prep courses, ours is fully mapped to the codes and amendments actually used by the Massachusetts Board of State Examiners of Electricians.

Whether you're working toward your Journeyman or Master Electrician license, CTC gives you the structure, support, and confidence you need to pass your exam and advance your career in a growing, high-demand field.

Your electrical career in Massachusetts starts here. With Contractor Training Center's expert-led prep for the Massachusetts Journeyman and Master Electrician exams, you'll gain the knowledge, tools, and confidence to pass on your first try.

[Enroll today and power your future with CTC.](#)

About CTC

With more than 30 years of experience, CTC has helped thousands of professionals in construction, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and more achieve their licensing goals. Our mission is simple: to equip you with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to pass your exams and build a successful career.

Contact CTC today for more information and to start advancing your career with the license that is right for you and your future goals.

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