# Part 2: Louisiana STAR Jobs

**A step-by-step guide for students and families**

## What are STAR Jobs?

STAR Jobs is a Louisiana career tool. It helps you compare types of work by pay and the need for workers. You can explore careers, look for training, and view job listings.

Each occupation gets a rating from **one to five stars**. Five is the highest rating. Louisiana uses information about pay, job openings, and expected hiring needs to set the ratings. Higher ratings point to a stronger mix of pay and job opportunities.

| Word you will see | What it means |
|---|---|
| Occupation | A type of job, such as electrician or carpenter. |
| Wages | Money a worker earns for doing a job. |
| Demand | How much employers need workers in that occupation. |
| Occupational outlook | What job opportunities may look like in the future. |
| Star rating | A quick way to compare occupations using pay and job-demand information. |

## How should we use the stars?

Start by exploring careers with **three, four, or five stars**. Then compare the work, education, pay, and location. A high rating is a reason to learn more. It does not guarantee a job, a certain paycheck, or that you will enjoy the work.

The stars rate an **occupation in an area**. They are not reviews of an employer or ratings of a worker. A lower rating does not mean the work is unimportant.

## Our example: construction

We will show two ways to explore: search for **electrician**, or browse all choices when you do not have a career in mind. Electricians work with electrical wiring and equipment. We will compare statewide results with the New Orleans region and explore related careers.

Go to www.laworks.net. Under **Explore Careers**, choose **STAR Jobs**.
Direct link: Open Louisiana STAR Jobs.

# Start your career search

Maroon numbers on the screenshots match the written steps. Boxes without numbers show other buttons or links named in the directions.

## 1. Enter a job title and search

Click the search box under **By Occupation**. Type **electrician**. Then click **FIND MY CAREER CHOICES**. You can try other job titles, such as carpenter or welder.




Not sure what to search? Click **SHOW ME ALL CHOICES** to browse occupations. If a search gives few results, try a simpler title or a related word. The tool may list both a close match and related careers.

## 2. Look at the first results

The statewide electrician search in our example returned Electricians, construction supervisors, and Helpers--Electricians. These are different roles, so compare what each one does.

| Star Rating | Occupational Title | Best Match or Related | Currently Advertised Jobs | Wages hourly / annual | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Entry-level | Typical | Experienced |
| 2 ★★★★ | **Electricians** Find Training | Best | 204 Show Current Listings | $17.38 | $28.49 | $36.99 |
| ★★★★★ | **First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers** Find Training | Related | 189 Show Current Listings | $22.90 | $34.00 | $48.42 |
| ★★★ | **Helpers--Electricians** Find Training | Related | 18 Show Current Listings | $13.93 | $17.83 | $24.36 |

**Best Match or Related:** “Best” means a close match to your search words. “Related” means a connected career. It does not mean the tool has picked the best career for you.

**Do not choose only by pay.** A supervisor role may pay more but may also require work experience. Read the requirements before comparing it with an entry role.

# Use the filters

A **filter** is a choice that narrows your results. Start broad, then change one filter at a time. Click **SHOW RESULTS** after making changes.




## 3. Occupational Outlook: choose the star range

Drag the green slider handle. The ratings run from **five stars on the left to one star on the right**. With the handle at three stars, the highlighted range includes three-, four-, and five-star careers. Move it toward five to narrow the choices; move it toward one to include more.

## 4. Educational Requirement: choose a range

This slider has two handles. Drag them to include the education levels you want to compare. Leave the full range selected at first so you can see different options. This filter uses the usual education listed for an occupation, not every employer's requirements.

| Label | Simple meaning |
|---|---|
| Less than High School | The usual entry education listed is below a high school diploma. |
| High School Diploma | Finish high school. Job training may still be needed. |
| Postsecondary, Non-degree | Training after high school without a college degree. |
| Associate Degree | A college degree usually taking about two years full time. |
| Bachelor's Degree | A college degree usually taking about four years full time. |
| Master's Degree / Doctoral / Professional | Advanced college study after an earlier degree. |

## 5. Minimum Required Salary: compare pay ranges

Drag the salary handles to change the pay range. Read the amounts shown under the slider. Start with a wide range; a high minimum may hide careers you want to explore. This is a search setting, not a promise of starting pay. The slider's lowest value is not a statement of today's legal minimum wage.

# Choose an area and read the pay

## 6. Choose a Location, then SHOW RESULTS

Click the arrow beside the location box. Choose **1 - New Orleans** for our example. This is a region, not just the city. The menu also offers Statewide and other regions. The box accepts a parish or ZIP code; when typing, choose a matching suggestion if one appears.




Our example keeps all education levels and the full salary range, with a three-star minimum. Click **SHOW RESULTS**. Check the area displayed below the search title to confirm your selection.

## 7. Read one row from left to right

| Result | What to learn from it |
|---|---|
| Star Rating | The rating for this occupation in the selected area. In our example, electricians have five stars statewide and four in the New Orleans region. |
| Currently Advertised Jobs | The tool's advertised-job count. Use Show Current Listings to see individual advertisements. The displayed count and list may differ. |
| Entry-level | A lower-pay estimate used to represent starting-level work. An actual starting offer can differ. |
| Typical | A middle-range pay estimate for this occupation. It is not guaranteed pay for a new worker. |
| Experienced | A higher-pay estimate used to represent experienced work. Experience alone does not guarantee this amount. |

Click **hourly** to compare pay per hour or **annual** to compare pay for a year. Pay figures are before taxes and other deductions. Use the same unit when comparing careers.

**Example:** New Orleans electricians show $17.44 entry-level, $29.02 typical, and $39.55 experienced per hour in this snapshot. These are three reference amounts, not a promised pay schedule. Figures were captured October 1, 2026 and may change.

# Learn about the work and training

## 8. Click the occupation name

Click **Electricians** in the results table. A description opens beneath the row. Read it together: Would you enjoy this kind of work? What would you want to ask someone who does it?




## 9. Explore the training and career links

| Link | Why it is useful |
|---|---|
| Find Training | Opens a search for education or training connected with that occupation. Check program location, cost, entry requirements, and the credential you earn. |
| Learn more about requirements for this job | Opens more career information. Look for education, skills, experience, and any license requirements. |
| Browse Employment Projections | Opens Louisiana's employment forecast resources. A projection is an estimate of future employment. Check the years and area before using a number. |
| Show Current Listings (step 10) | Shows individual job advertisements. Read the location, posted date, pay unit, and requirements. |

## Words you may find next

**Work experience:** Time spent doing related work.
**On-the-job training:** Learning job skills while working.
**Apprenticeship:** Paid work combined with planned job training and instruction.
**License:** Official permission required for some types of work.
**Projected annual openings:** Estimated openings per year, including openings from growth and workers leaving an occupation. This is different from advertisements available today.

**Family question:** Does this career require college, a training program, an apprenticeship, work experience, or a combination? Ask the school which classes and opportunities could help you begin.

# Use job listings and make a plan

## 10. Open Show Current Listings

This view shows individual job advertisements. Click **Back** to return to your career results. For career exploration, read the advertisements to learn what employers want.




Our search showed 63 advertised jobs in the summary, but the listings view returned three results. The tool does not explain this difference on the screen. Use the actual listings to check details, and confirm with the employer that a position is still open.

One listing shows pay **per year**; another shows pay **per hour**. Check the unit before comparing. **Apply Now** leads toward the application process. You do not need to apply to complete this family activity.

## Other helpful controls

**Results Per Page:** Choose how many results to display.
**> / <:** Move to the next or previous page. Double arrows jump to the last or first page.
**RESTART YOUR SEARCH:** Begin again with another occupation.
**Information (i) icons / Help Video:** Get tips about the tool.
**Printer icon:** Open a printer-friendly view. The envelope icon offers email sharing.

## Try this together

Explore one construction career and one related occupation. Record their stars, entry-level pay, usual preparation, and one question about the work. Then ask: **Which one interests you more, and why?**

Career 1: _____ Career 2: _____

A skill or requirement we want to learn about: _____

A class, program, or experience to ask the school about: _____

No results? Widen the star, education, or salary range; try Statewide; or restart with a simpler search term. A small result list does not mean there are no opportunities.

# No career in mind? Start here

**Worked example: discover careers that fit your goals**

Imagine a student says: “I am not sure what career I want. I would like to explore jobs that pay at least $25 an hour, with education up to an associate degree, near the New Orleans area.”

This is a new example. Start again at step 1. Maroon numbers match the written steps; blue numbers belong to the website.

## 1. Leave the career box blank

On the starting screen, click **SHOW ME ALL CHOICES**. If you are already viewing results, click **RESTART YOUR SEARCH** first. You do not need to enter a job title.



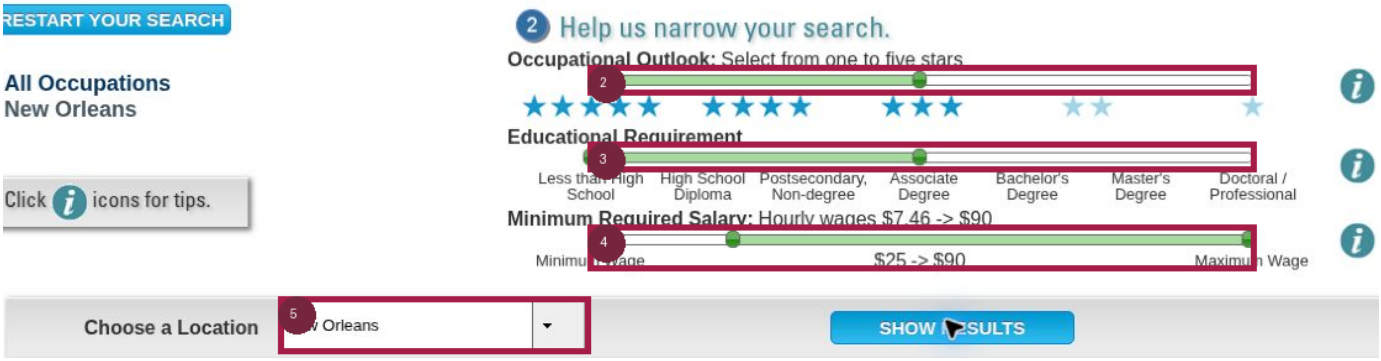

## 2-5. Set these four filters

| Filter | What to do |
|---|---|
| 2. Stars: three or higher | Move the star slider handle to three stars. The highlighted area includes three, four, and five stars. |
| 3. Education: up to Associate Degree | Leave the left education handle at Less than High School. Move the right handle to Associate Degree. This includes careers with less education, too. |
| 4. Pay: at least $25 per hour | Move the left salary handle until the amount below it reads $25. Leave the right handle at the maximum. If needed, click the handle and use the arrow keys to fine-tune the amount. |
| 5. Location: New Orleans | Open the location menu and choose 1 - New Orleans. Then click SHOW RESULTS. |

**Why “up to” matters:** This search includes careers listed with a high school diploma, non-degree training, or an associate degree. It does not mean every result requires an associate degree. Some also require job training, experience, or a license.

# Read your new career choices

Your screen should show **All Occupations** and **New Orleans**. Check the highlighted slider ranges and the **$25** amount. In our October 1, 2026 walkthrough, these settings returned **87 results**. Your total may change.




## 6. Browse more than the first page

Click the **>** arrow to see more choices, or increase **Results Per Page**. This search can show careers from many fields. Pick two or three that sound interesting, even if you have never heard of them.

Results Per Page 10 — 87 Results Found — << < 1 of 9 > >>

| Star Rating | Occupational Title | Best Match or Related | Currently Advertised Jobs | Wages: hourly / annual — Entry-level | Typical | Experienced |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ★★★★★ | Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels<br>Find Training | Best | 4<br>Show Current Listings | $28.43 | $49.91 | $77.65 |
| ★★★★★ | Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders<br>Find Training | Best | 1<br>Show Current Listings | $18.11 | $40.11 | $51.51 |
| ★★★★★ | Chemical Plant and System Operators<br>Find Training | Best | 1<br>Show Current Listings | $28.98 | $45.28 | $50.78 |
| ★★★★★ | Chemical Technicians<br>Find Training | Best | 1<br>Show Current Listings | $23.14 | $41.76 | $51.28 |
| ★★★★★ | Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Commercial and Industrial Equipment<br>Find Training | Best | 9<br>Show Current Listings | $21.51 | $40.75 | $51.12 |

## 7. Check starting pay before making a plan

Look at all three pay columns. The $25 filter **does not guarantee $25 entry-level pay**. For example, Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders appears with $18.11 entry-level pay and $40.11 typical pay per hour. Electrical and Electronics Repairers appears with $21.51 entry-level pay and $40.75 typical pay.

Ask: **What could I earn when starting? What training or experience would help me move forward?** Click a career name to read about the work, then explore its requirements and training links. Use the earlier pages to review what the results and links mean.

**Try a second search:** Raise the star minimum to four, lower the education maximum, or change the pay minimum. Change one setting at a time and compare what happens. If too few choices remain, widen the filters.

Sources: Louisiana Works STAR Jobs live tool (laworks.net/Stars/default.aspx); Louisiana Works Star Jobs methodology (laworks.net/WorkforcePell/WFP_Methodology.asp). Screens checked October 1, 2026. Ratings, wages, and listings may change. This family guide is not an official Louisiana Works publication.