SUNY Canton CDL Training

Noncredit commercial driver pathway | Student and parent checklist

Work through this with Tom or Sue, your **Promise Pathway Coach (PPC)**. Check an action when completed. Ask your coach to record any funding option that does not apply.

Dates are TOP planning targets, not confirmed funder deadlines. NLT means no later than. Your coach must verify 2027 openings and requirements; an earlier official deadline always takes priority. Apply when portals open. Do not wait for one award before applying for another.

1 Apply and confirm your course

- ☐ **Meet your coach and choose the right CDL track**

  Start Oct. 26, 2026 | Target Nov. 6, 2026

  Confirm TOP eligibility and the license needed: **Class A, Class B or Class B-to-A upgrade**. Ask Canton's CDL team (WCIP) about age, driving-record, medical and permit requirements, license restrictions, schedule and a current tuition quote.

- ☐ **Apply directly to Canton CDL training**

  Start Oct. 26, 2026 | Target Nov. 30, 2026; check earlier admission or seat deadlines

  At canton.edu/wcip/noncredit/cdl/, select Apply Now. Complete noncredit registration, indicate you need financial assistance and upload requested records. Canton encourages early application while paperwork and funding are still pending.

- ☐ **Arrange permit and driver documents**

  Confirm requirements and validity windows Nov. 2, 2026 | Target June 15, 2027; before the provider deadline

  Follow WCIP instructions for your driver license, CDL learner permit, driver abstract and DOT physical/medical records. Confirm age and interstate-driving restrictions and required tests with WCIP and NYS DMV **before paying for training**.

2 Find funding with your coach

PHASE 1 | TUITION COVERAGE

☐ 1. Ask WCIP for a written funding plan

Start Oct. 26, 2026 | Target Jan. 15, 2027; obtain approval before training

Ask WCIP to screen all available CDL funding and name a staff contact to work with Financial Aid and your coach. Get a written plan showing eligibility, applications, amounts, permitted costs, pending decisions and the remaining balance.

☐ 2. Check Workforce Pell before you apply or count it

Start Oct. 26, 2026 | Target Jan. 15, 2027; obtain approval before training

Canton CDL approval is unconfirmed. Ask WCIP and Financial Aid to verify your exact track in writing. Published tracks total 30-50 hours, below the usual 150-clock-hour minimum; credit-hour equivalents and other approval criteria also apply. If approved, file FAFSA at StudentAid.gov using **Canton code 002855**, supply requested records and request eligibility review. FAFSA has no separate student Workforce Pell checkbox. If unavailable, record that finding and pursue the options below.

☐ 3. Apply for eligible NYS nondegree part-time tuition aid

Start Nov. 2, 2026 | Initial completion June 15, 2027; earlier official deadline controls

Canton lists NYS part-time TAP for nondegree students as a CDL funding option. Ask Financial Aid which application, FAFSA/TAP steps and school code apply to your track. Complete the forms and eligibility review; degree-program aid rules do not automatically apply.

☐ 4. Have WCIP confirm your tuition coverage

Start as awards arrive | First review Apr. 15, 2027; finish July 15, 2027, or earlier bill deadline

Ask WCIP and Financial Aid to record the exact tuition charge, confirmed tuition funding and remaining tuition balance. Keep pending Workforce Pell or NYS aid separate; do not count an unapproved award. Identify any remaining tuition gap with your coach. This initial review is not a final TOP funding decision.

Record your tuition totals before moving on

Total tuition charge	Confirmed tuition coverage	Tuition still unfunded
$_____	$_____	$_____

Include only confirmed school-paid tuition or aid approved for tuition. List pending awards separately.

Pending decisions: _____ Reviewed with: _____ Date: _____

This is an initial tuition review, not final TOP approval. Update these figures as awards arrive. Keep additional applications on schedule even while decisions are pending.

PHASE 2 | OTHER ATTENDANCE COSTS & FUNDING

These opportunities may help with a remaining tuition gap or other attendance costs. Confirm each award's permitted uses.

☐ Check Canton grant-funded CDL scholarships

Get dates Nov. 2, 2026; apply when open | Target Feb. 15, 2027, or earlier official deadline

Ask WCIP about FMCSA CMVOST-funded scholarships. Canton announced up to **$3,850 for each of 10 applicants in 2026 and 2027** across Class A, Class B and upgrade tracks. Confirm current eligibility, remaining funds, deadlines and separate applications. Have WCIP explain coordination with TAP, workforce and employer support.

☐ Check employer sponsorship or reimbursement

Start Oct. 26, 2026 | Target Jan. 15, 2027; obtain approval before training

Ask current or prospective employers about tuition support and Canton WCIP partnerships. Get amounts, permitted costs, payment timing, employment obligations and repayment conditions in writing before accepting.

- [ ] **Apply for workforce training assistance if eligible**
  Start Oct. 26, 2026 | Target Jan. 15, 2027; obtain approval before training
  Ask the St. Lawrence County One-Stop Career Center about Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and other training aid for this exact course. Canton lists **Kyle White, 315-229-3378, kwhite@stlawco.gov**. Confirm approval before training and whether related expenses qualify.
- [ ] **Apply for eligible NNYCF and OFA scholarships**
  Get dates Nov. 2, 2026; apply when open | Target Feb. 15, 2027, or earlier official deadline
  Use the NNYCF scholarship portal and get OFA's current list from counseling. Confirm each award allows **noncredit CDL training** and your attendance dates. Submit eligible applications, references and supporting documents by deadlines.
- [ ] **Check other grants and individual benefits if applicable**
  Start Oct. 26, 2026 | Target Jan. 15, 2027; obtain approval before training
  Ask WCIP about other CDL aid or waivers, ACCES-VR for eligible students with disabilities, and approved veterans education benefits. Confirm eligibility for this exact noncredit course; ordinary college scholarships may not cover it.
- [ ] **Build the complete cost and support plan**
  Start estimating Nov. 2, 2026 | Plan by June 15, 2027; update by July 15
  Get an itemized WCIP quote. Include tuition, permits and tests, DOT physical, drug test, DMV road-test attempts, extra driving hours, endorsements, required equipment and travel. Confirm what tuition includes. Ask WCIP and each funder which separate costs qualify; record approved uses and limits in writing. Identify upfront payments versus later reimbursement.

3 Confirm costs and get ready to train

- [ ] **Check the funding record together**
  Start as awards arrive | First review Apr. 15, 2027; finish July 15, 2027, or earlier bill deadline
  Record every application, decision received or pending, amount, permitted use and payment date. Have WCIP and Financial Aid reconcile Workforce Pell if approved, NYS aid, grants, employer support and scholarships. Avoid duplicate payments for the same expense.
- [ ] **Ask TOP to confirm what it will pay**
  Start June 15, 2027 | TOP decision target July 15, 2027; earlier if your bill requires it
  Give your coach the bill, funding decisions and completed review. TOP must approve student and course eligibility and determine remaining eligible tuition and mandatory fees. Get payment approval in writing. **Do not assume medical tests, DMV costs, extra lessons or travel are covered** without written approval.
- [ ] **Resolve upfront payment and reimbursement timing**
  Start June 15, 2027 | Target July 31, 2027, or earlier provider or billing deadline
  Confirm whether each funder pays Canton directly or reimburses you, and when. **Canton requires full payment at program start.** If reimbursement arrives later, resolve the upfront gap with WCIP and your coach before committing. Get TOP approval for any proposed TOP payment.
- [ ] **Confirm the start date and arrange the drug test**
  Start June 15, 2027 | Target July 31, 2027, or earlier provider or billing deadline
  Coordinate awards and obtain written start-date confirmation. After arranging that date, follow WCIP instructions for the DOT five-panel drug test and its validity window. Confirm the current cancellation/refund policy.
- [ ] **Complete training and licensing**
  Start on the confirmed 2027 course date | Meet provider completion and DMV dates; track after enrollment
  Finish entry-level driver training and behind-the-wheel lessons; follow instructor guidance for the road test. Save receipts, completion records and license results for reimbursement claims. Tell your coach about completion and employment plans.

Coach calendar and reference notes

Coach deadline record: Record official opening/closing dates and an owner by Nov. 6, 2026. Check unopened portals weekly and during school breaks. Update costs as bills and awards arrive; mark pending awards. Complete the cost/aid plan by June 15, 2027, TOP review by July 15 and payment arrangements by July 31, or earlier when required. Confirm an actual 2027 cohort by Nov. 30, 2026. Short courses may follow a different calendar. Use earlier course deadlines and avoid booking time-limited medical or drug tests too soon. Providers must confirm award restrictions and how aid fits together. TOP determines eligible remaining tuition and mandatory fees; other costs need separate funding unless approved.

References: StudentAid.gov 2027-28 FAFSA; Canton admissions, aid and scholarships; HVCC enrollment and scholarships; NNYCF. Verify unconfirmed 2027 funder dates. Published benchmarks: Canton Feb. 1 preferred selective admission and Mar. 1 scholarships; HVCC Apr. 15 fall FAFSA recommendation. TOP targets are earlier.