

Low Observable FAQ

What is the potential starting wage?

Low Observable technicians hired from the program can expect to start around \$25.00 per hour.

What are the travel requirements in terms of countries/locations?

The specific countries and locations are all classified and cannot be shared at this point in time. Once someone is hired and has obtained their security clearance, they will be made aware of these locations. You can expect to travel around 25% of the time.

How long is the program through completion?

The program is 165 hours total and will be completed within 14 weeks. The average time to obtain a security clearance depends on each individual, but 200 days has been the average.

What's the difference between this program and the AFAB program at Antelope Valley College?

The Aircraft Fabrication and Assembly (AFAB) at AVC focuses more on participants becoming structures mechanics, structures technicians, and composites technicians. There are different DoD clearances between the programs, and the LO program requires a higher level clearance. AFAB focuses on production and manufacturing whereas LO focuses on product life cycles. There is not as much travel with the AFAB program as there will be with LO. Also, there are not as many hiring opportunities in that program at this point in time due to program contract and government contracts.

If we are hired is there a possibility of moving up in the ranks?

Yes. You will have ample opportunity for career advancement as a Technician or through management, depending on your interest. This will be based on years of experience, performance reviews, and other factors.

Will there be any other time frames for those who currently have 2nd shift jobs?

For this cohort the times are set, so not at this time, but there is potential for future cohorts to be offered at different times.

How hard would it be to follow this career while pursuing a bachelor's degree? Is there flexibility to work while going to school?

Yes, it is possible to pursue additional education while in this field. Many technicians who are deployed take time to earn their degrees and take part in Northrop's Educational Assistance program.

Will there be a similar program brought to AVC?

Not at this point in time, but there might be opportunities in the future.

What if we have an associate's degree already? Do we have to take the assessment?

Yes, you will still need to take the assessments.

If we took the assessment for the upcoming AFAB program at AVC and passed, can we use the results for this program?

Depends on when you took it. The assessments results are valid for 6 months. If your test date was more than 6 months ago, you will have to take the assessments again.

Since this does not offer college credit, and with Northrop Grumman's current hiring issues, is this specific training valuable outside of the company?

Other aerospace and ship building companies utilize LO technology, and the projected demand for these skills is very high.

After successfully completing the program, what is the timeline to be employed by NG?

It will depend on when you can obtain your clearance from the DoD. The average wait time for clearance is around 200 days, but can be more depending on individual circumstances.

What is the cost of the program?

If an individual qualifies for WIOA funding then there is no cost to take this program. If you do not qualify for the WIOA funding, then you would be responsible for the entire cost of the program. We will work with these individuals on a case-by-case basis.

Where do we go to sign up to take the placement exam?

Assessment exams will be hosted at College of the Canyons in August by appointment only. Please connect with the AJCC to schedule your appointment and begin filling out the necessary paperwork.

Is there a set start date for this program?

The program is anticipating to launch Monday, August 29 at this time.

What is the first step to getting into this program?

The first step is to connect with the AJCC to schedule your assessment test and to complete the initial paperwork.

For the assessment dates, I work mornings and can't make the times listed previously. Is there another date and time that I can come in and take the assessment?

Yes, you can make an appointment at the SCV AJCC at afabtrainingprogram@goodwillsocal.org. Please use "LO Program" as the subject.

How likely is it that the VA would approve the use of the GI Bill for this program before the program's start date?

There is potential that they could approve it, but we cannot guarantee this at this point in time.

I know the program is 165 hours. But in terms of weeks, how long would that be?

14 weeks or less.

What are the qualifications to be approved for overseas travel, besides the 90 – 120 days availability?

You must complete the classified training internally at Northrop Grumman. You must also pass the medical requirements for traveling overseas, depending on what country you travel to.

How do we attempt to get the security clearances for Northrop Grumman?

An individual cannot submit for a security clearance. All submissions must come from a DoD entity or contractor like Northrop Grumman.

Is it a requirement to travel or do we have the option to be stationed?

For this program you must travel, and that will be 25% of the time. There are other sectors within Northrop that might be hiring in the future.

Will having a current secret clearance improve/expedite an offer from Northrop Grumman?

It could help, depending on job performance; it is a leg-up for getting you hired quicker.

Is the required travel random at times or are there set travel schedules?

There is a routine scheduled so that you can plan ahead. Travel would be for 90 days consecutively.

What happens if someone completes the LO program and passes the DOD process; however, there is a hiccup with the SAP clearance. Will they be considered for another position within Northrop Grumman?

Yes, there might be possibilities to enter into other programs if you have a clearance. It will depend on other clearance mandates from the customer.

If I have a record, but it's been expunged and it's been over 30 years, can I still apply? Will I pass the DoD background check?

Some infractions, while expunged, may disqualify personnel from being able to obtain a clearance. We recommend reviewing the DoD security clearance website and process to obtain specific details.

Do I have to enroll at College of The Canyons in order to attend the AFAB program, or does AV College offer these courses as well?

The AFAB program is a different program than the LO program. AFAB is hosted by AVC and LO is hosted by COC. You do not need to enroll as a COC student to participate in this program.

If we enroll in College of the Canyons, is the class guaranteed to the people who attend the informational session?

No, there is no guarantee for anyone.

I am currently in the onboarding process and have passed a DoD clearance. Is it still possible to attend such classes?

Yes, you can still attend the course.

What if you are already taking courses for the AFAB program at AVC and passed the courses. Will those credits count and/or can be transferred to the COC program?

No, they are different programs and cannot be transferred.

Is this a Non-Union or Union position?

This position will be Non-Union.

What Northrop Facility would we be working at?

You will primarily be at Edwards Air Force Base and potentially in Palmdale.

How often would we be going overseas? Also, which countries?

25% travel is required for this position. The countries that you will travel to is classified.

Will practice tests be provided to study for the official exam?

Yes, they are available at the AJCC and you can request them.

If we have a few applications already submitted, does that affect us in anyway?

No, it should not for this program.

How long are the math and English tests?

Roughly ½ hour for each assessment.

Do you have to live in California?

Yes, for the training, but not after you are hired. For WIOA funding, you must reside in LA County, though.

Tax exempt overseas?

We recommend talking to a tax advisor for specific questions in this area.

Since this is Non-Union, do we still qualify for medical benefits or health benefits after we start working for Northrop?

Yes, you will be eligible for benefits once you are hired.

Are the hours for this job graveyard, daytime, or a bit of both?

It will depend on what shift you are assigned to once hired.

Are 3-day, 12-hour shifts available?

No, not at this time.

Is there a certain weight limit for this project?

No, there is no weight limit.

Once hired, is there a set work schedule, or will it vary each day during the week?

Typically, you will be on a 5/40 work week, but this will be determined by the project, customer, and if you are deployed. Expect to work more when deployed.

Can we start the security clearance early on to meet with finishing the class?

Northrop will start the process as soon as possible once candidates are identified.

Are the hours determined beforehand, based on the project/contract being worked on?

It will depend on the project and requirements for the program.

When being deployed, will we report to Edwards Air Force Base, or will we need to be taken to the airport, and/or be driven to work that day if we need to leave our car with our family?

You can leave your car at home and then take a shuttle to the airport. It will be expensed to Northrop.

How long is the contract for this position?

Every five (5) years, the contract can be renewed. This program has lots of potential for growth as long as you perform on the job.

Say the contract is up in five years. What happens to us at the end of the contract?

The contract will typically be renewed, but if not, there will be other opportunities to move internally.

Can college credit and/or a 2-year degree replace the need for a high school diploma? Will the physical high school diploma be required?

If you have a degree or any transcript, that will suffice for the high school diploma. No physical diploma is required.

Would a certificate be given upon completion of this program?

You will receive a certification from College of the Canyons, but it does not have any college credit attached to it.

With sanding the paint, do you guys use milliliters and such things?

Yes, we will use some measurements like this.

Do we need to be fully vaccinated to attend in-person?

The college does require anyone who comes to campus to either be vaccinated/boosted or provide a negative COVID test. The current Northrop Grumman policy is to be vaccinated, and this is required for employment.

How many candidates will be accepted into the program this round?

We are anticipating selecting 12 – 16 candidates.

Will the application mimic, or be the same as, using an airless paint sprayer?

The VR system uses the same equipment as is used on the production floor.

Are there any study guides to prepare me for the assessment tests?

Yes, the AJCC will provide details and study materials for everyone.

When will interviews be held if we make it into the program?

Interviews will happen during the 1st or 2nd module.

What determines who is selected for the program?

Your assessment score, ability to complete your paperwork in a timely manner, and a brief background check.

If I am not accepted this round, will we be in line for the next round?

Yes, you will be eligible for future cohorts.

When will the background check be conducted during the program?

There is an initial background check, done right away, and then a DoD security clearance check for everyone who is accepted into the program.

How many hours do we spend using the VR system?

It will depend on your proficiency and ability to master the techniques and pass each module.

Will we receive a list of all the paperwork that is needed for program?

Yes, the AJCC will be sending out information to everyone who attended the informational session.

Are there automatic disqualifications in regards to backgrounds for clearance?

There are certain things that would be an automatic disqualification. Please refer to the DoD security clearance website for specific details.

Do we choose the position for deployment or no-deployment, or is it chosen for us?

You list your preference and can always change it in the future.

If we get into the program, but do not receive a job offer after the second module when interviews are held, do we still continue with the program?

Yes, you should still complete the program because there will be other opportunities.

Will a current clearance roll over?

It depends on the clearance.

What is Northrop Grumman's policy regarding tattoos, hair grooming, earrings, and other personal presentation characteristics?

It will not be an issue for hiring, but there could be issues on the job in regards to FOD (Foreign Object Debris).