

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Is welding for me?

Do you genuinely like the challenge required to accomplish very difficult things?

Are you OK with failing to be able to do something, repeatedly, that somebody else will make look easy?

Can you emotionally handle doing your honest best at a single “simple” task for hours a day, for a number of weeks, and still not being good at it?

Can you deal with learning a trade that you will have to invest thousands of hours in before you will be proficient?

Are you cut out for solving problem after problem on your own?

Do like physical work that gets you hot, dirty, sweaty, and sometimes burned?

Can you work on your feet for 8 hours or more per day?

Can you stay intently mentally focused, carefully listen, retain information, and follow directions well?

If the answer is “no” to the above, you should probably do something easier.

I heard welders make huge money, is this true?

Some people make good money welding, many do not. Mediocre welders are a dime a dozen, really good welders are rare. The people who are apt to make the best money are highly skilled, knowledgeable, adaptable, and have exceptionally good work habits. They also seek employment where the work is demanding and the acceptance criteria are high.

I heard GHC Welding is a tough program. How is it different?

In the welding degree program, we don't see our mission as to train people how to weld. We see it as training people how to be successful welders. There is a profound difference between those two things. Some of the affiliated tasks we prioritize are good work habits, understanding machine controls and setup, consumable selection, applied math, blueprint reading, welding symbols, using measuring tools accurately, layout, using a variety of shop machinery, torch work, carbon arc gouging, restricted access work, industrial hygiene, and health and wellness issues.

There is homework almost every day, fall, winter, and spring quarters.

Our three emphasis options for our degree allow the student to get broad based competence (Structural Option), to add focus for beam work (Construction Option), or to add focus for pipe welding (Pipe Welding Option).

Our construction and pipe welding degree programs are among the most comprehensive of their type, in terms of content and hours, within the United States.

Our goal is to produce multi-process / combination welders capable of producing code-quality work at an industry acceptable pace. This is well beyond just teaching someone how to weld.

If you only want to learn how to weld and don't plan to do it professionally, our 3 night courses (Weld 101, 102, and 103) which are not part of our degree program may be something to consider.

Can I get certified?

Welder certification testing is part of the degree program and is conducted in the last quarter of the welding degree course sequence. GHC Welding does not test the general public, or students who have not completed the full welding degree course sequence.

But I don't want a degree, I just want to get certified, why can't I do it here?

GHC Welding has a reputation built upon the success in industry of decades of high quality graduates. Protecting the program's reputation and maintaining the value of the credentials we issue is a top priority. We don't want anyone with a certification earned here to enter the field without also having the solid and broad foundational skills and knowledge acquired by our graduates.

How long is the wait list to start the program?

Historically the wait has been between about 3-12 months, provided the monthly call ins that are required to stay on the list are made on time. Some people have waited 1-2 years or more, but that is because they missed one or more of the required monthly call ins and went to the back of list at least once.

What should I do to prepare / while I wait?

A fair number of people on our degree program waiting list will take one or more night welding courses. These night courses do not transfer into the degree program, but they do provide a nice head start with skill building. Knocking out the general education requirements for the degree is a great use of wait time.

Do I have to take the “prereqs” first?

Many people mistakenly call the general education requirements for the welding degree “prereqs”. They are not prerequisites, they are general education courses mandated by the State for any two-year degree. No, you do not have to take them first. You can take them before, during, or after the welding course work. You do however need to place above Adult Basic Education (ABE) level during college placement testing, which means place in or have completed “60 level” math and English (or higher).

Can I transfer welding credits from another college?

Probably not, but it is a case-by-case basis. GHC welding courses are 16 credits each. Unlike most other colleges, our courses are multi-process. This means that in our first course (Weld 110, Beginning Welding), students setup and use a variety of welding processes, most in all positions, and do a fair bit of torch cutting and carbon arc gouging. Most schools’ courses are welding process specific (one process), and consist of much fewer credits/hours. So, transferring credits seldom would do anything other than set up the incoming student for failure as our course assignments assume students have already achieved specific skills and knowledge from our beginning course(s).

Can I get credit for previous welding work?

Probably not, but it is case-by-case basis. All of our classes are multi-process, and by the second quarter we are already doing open-root pipe welding. It is unlikely a field welder will have the broad base we train even just in the first and second quarter.