

**You've learned the skills. You have the knowledge. NOW GO FOR THE INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION . . .**



## **WELDING TECHNICIANS**

***Ozarka College programs that provides Welding training and testing:***

Associate of Applied Science in Welding Technology: [https://www.ozarka.edu/index.cfm?template=program\\_details&prg\\_cod=4901](https://www.ozarka.edu/index.cfm?template=program_details&prg_cod=4901)

Technical Certificate in Welding Technology: [https://www.ozarka.edu/index.cfm?template=program\\_details&prg\\_cod=4900](https://www.ozarka.edu/index.cfm?template=program_details&prg_cod=4900)

***About Welding employment in Arkansas (per bls.gov):***

- **Median Pay:** \$42,490 per year/\$20.43 per hour
- **Job Outlook:** projected to grow 3 percent from 2019 to 2029, about as fast as the average for all occupations

***About the Welding Technician credential and American Welding Society (AWS):***

*"One of the best ways to advance your welding career is by earning an AWS Certification. Professional Welding Certification can enhance your career, your lifetime earning potential, and provide you the opportunity to leverage your expanded knowledge and expertise across your current and future professional roles. AWS offers nine certification categories designed to address all segments of the welding and joining industry and match your goals."* (<https://www.aws.org/certification/page/home>)

***Why should I get the American Welding Society (AWS) certification?***

- ***It will give you a head-start compared to non-AWS certified individual***
- ***You demonstrate a foundation of welding knowledge that will strengthen your resume***
- ***It will increase your career prospects***

***When, how, and where can I be certified?***

Students will be able to take an American Welding Society (AWS) certification test for each level starting with Structure I. Graduates of the Technical Certificate or Associate of Applied Science in Welding Technology programs will be prepared to test for four American Welding Society certifications.

***How much does the test cost?***

The structural certification tests are around \$300.00 each. The Pipe Welding certificate tests are around \$750-800 each because they include a x-ray of the weld.

***How can I pay for the test?***

*Suggestions:*

- *If you are receiving federal or state financial aid, plan in advance to reserve some of your Pell refund, student government loan disbursement, or other financial aid disbursement so that you have the funds available at the end of the semester.*
- *Check with your advisor about opportunities that might be available to reimburse you for some or all of the test fee.*

***How can I best prepare for the test?***

- *Complete one of the degrees programs at Ozarka College*
- *Study your book and practice your skills*
- *Purchase and take practice tests: <https://www.aws.org/certification/page/certified-welding-inspector-2>*