

# The Apprenticeship Advantage

...earn while you learn!



## What is apprenticeship?

Apprenticeship is a training program where you earn wages while you learn a skilled profession in a specific field, such as construction, health care, or culinary arts.

Apprenticeship combines classroom studies with on-the-job training supervised by a trade professional. Much like a college education, it takes several years to become fully trained in the occupation you choose. Unlike college though, as an apprentice you'll earn while you learn.

At first, you'll make less money than skilled workers, but as you progress, you'll get regular raises. Once you've mastered the craft, you'll receive the same wages as a professional.

## Why choose apprenticeship?

Apprenticeship means real skills and real careers

### ► Proven success

Today's carpenters, electricians, plumbers, and sheet metal workers were yesterday's apprentices. And tomorrow's manufacturing technicians, educational assistants, and firefighters may be apprenticeship graduates as well.

You can find apprenticeship opportunities in most construction trades and in many other occupations. Apprenticeships in new occupations are being added all the time.

### ► Proven methods

Whatever your field of interest, you will be taught by experienced professionals. You'll take at least 144 hours of related classes each year. And, you'll have a chance to practice your new skills on the job while you are learning.

### ► Higher wages

Skilled trades pay more than unskilled work. That's why apprenticeships lead to higher wages. According to a survey by the Washington State Workforce Education and Training Coordinating Board, apprenticeship graduates earn an average of \$53,000 per year plus benefits.

### ► Advancement potential

Apprenticeship graduates usually advance more rapidly than other workers, so higher-paying jobs come more quickly. Some apprentices move into supervisory positions within just a few years.

### ► Equal opportunity

Apprenticeship programs must provide equal opportunity to all who are interested. They are eager for qualified women and minority applicants.

### ► Valuable skills credential

When you complete your apprenticeship, you'll receive a graduation certificate valid anywhere in the U.S. that demonstrates you have the knowledge and skills needed for successful performance as a professional in that occupation.



Washington State Department of  
**Labor & Industries**

Apprenticeship Services



**Here are just a few apprenticeship training programs:**

- Bricklayer
  - Carpenter
  - Cement mason
  - Corrections officer
  - Culinary workers
  - Dispensing optician
  - Educational assistant (K-12)
  - Electrician
  - Elevator constructor mechanic
  - Equipment operator
  - Firefighter
  - Health-care worker
  - Heating & cooling technician
  - Ironworker
  - Insurance claims manager
  - Manufacturing technician
  - Meat cutter
  - Painter and decorator
  - Plumber
  - Power-line worker
- And many more!

**Why not get started now?**

Think about an occupation that makes the most of your special talents, and find out if there's an apprenticeship program in that occupation.

You'll need a high-school diploma, GED or equivalent, and basic reading and writing skills. Some programs require specific math training.

Contact a Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) Apprenticeship Consultant for assistance. They can give you tips to make the search easier and direct you toward an apprenticeship program that you might want to explore further.

**Remember: Apprenticeship is a commitment that prepares you for a lifetime career. It's your career – your choice – your future!**

**Contact a local apprenticeship consultant**

- Northwest Washington..... 425-290-1321
- King County ..... 206-515-2842  
or..... 206-835-1028
- Pierce County/Central Peninsula ..... 253-596-3930
- Southwest Washington (northern) ..... 360-902-6781  
or (southern)..... 360-575-6927
- Central Washington..... 509-735-0119
- Eastern Washington..... 509-324-2590



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