



How to Become an Apprentice

An apprenticeship is an "earn while you learn" program with a built in formal training agreement (Apprentice Contract) providing on-the-job training and related instruction. The training is received on-the-job where the employer teaches the skills of the occupation. The classroom instruction is theoretical knowledge pertaining to a specific occupation and usually taught at an area technical college. When unavailable, factory training schools or correspondence courses can be substituted. The term of training may vary from 2 to 5 years, depending on the occupation.

Wages in various occupations vary. Most apprentices begin at approximately 50% of the current skilled wage rate. It has been the practice in most occupations to provide a periodic step increase every month or 1040 hours. Apprentice's wages must average 60% of the skilled wage rate during the term of the apprenticeship program.

THE FIRST STEP IS TO SELECT AN OCCUPATIONAL AREA

Searching on our website or looking at the Apprenticeship Blue Book you will find there are currently many occupations which train using the Registered Apprenticeship system. New occupations are regularly approved for apprenticeship training. The criteria for approval of an apprenticeable occupation are:

1. It is customarily learned in a practical way through on-the-job training.
2. There is a need for organized related instruction to supplement the on-the-job training
3. It is clearly identified and recognized throughout the industry as a separate identifiable trade.

LOOKING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY IS LIKE LOOKING FOR A JOB!!!!

THE SECOND STEP DEPENDS ON YOUR CHOICE OF OCCUPATION

CONSTRUCTION OCCUPATIONAL AREAS

If you desire an apprenticeship in the construction occupation, you would need to contact the Local Apprenticeship Committee for that construction occupation. Local committees use various methods for qualifying applicants, some use a rank list and others use a letter of introduction. Local Apprenticeship Committees maintain a waiting list of applicants, who have successfully passed the required testing and interview. You can search online to find the appropriate Local Apprenticeship Committee office, Craft Union, Labor Organization or Association. You can also obtain a list of the Local Apprenticeship Committees from your local Job Center or Workforce Development Center. When you have selected one or more construction occupations that you are interested in, contact the Local Apprenticeship Committee training office directly and speak with the Apprenticeship Training Coordinator; inquiring about the proper procedures for applying to get into their apprenticeship program.

MANUFACTURING OR SERVICE OCCUPATIONAL AREAS

You must apply directly to the employer's personnel or hiring office. Apprenticeship openings are sometimes listed with Local Job Center or Workforce Development offices, on JobCenterofWisconsin.com Technical Colleges on Wisconsin TechConnect or on the company's website.

Often the best chance to obtain an apprenticeship is to find an employer willing to hire you and then persuade them to provide skilled training. Some large industrial/manufacturing plants often have a bargaining agreement with a union that makes apprenticeship opportunities only available to workers already employed in their current workforce. Chances to become highly skilled workers in the various occupational areas are at a premium even in times of full employment-opportunities for participation in apprenticeship are very competitive. For more detailed information, please visit our website: