

How to Become an Apprentice

What is an apprentice?

An apprentice is a paid worker who is enrolled in a special training program administered by an employer in partnership with a labor organization or trade association. Most apprentices work in trades related to construction.

An apprenticeship is the best route to a career in a skilled trade. Such careers offer excellent wages and benefits. They also provide a sense of accomplishment, as the results of your work are there for all to see.

Many job opportunities – During the next 10 years, the number of construction-related jobs in Illinois is expected to grow at a healthy pace. The greatest growth is projected to be in the specialty trades industry for occupations such as electricians, painters and plumbers.

Time spent in training – Most apprenticeships take three to five years to complete. A typical program includes 2,000 hours of on-the-job training, and a minimum of 144 hours per year of related classroom instruction.

Wages paid to apprentices – Wages vary widely by trade, with beginning apprentices typically earning from 30 to 70 percent of the journeyworker's wage for the given trade. Pay is gradually increased over the length of the apprenticeship until training is completed, and the apprentice graduates to full journeyworker status.

IDES can help you get started

The IDES offices listed on the back of this brochure serve as Apprenticeship Information Centers (AIC). AIC representatives can provide you with detailed information on the trades of your choice, including the requirements and qualifications for entry into each program.



Note: The information contained in this publication is subject to change at any time. For the latest information, visit the IDES website at www.ides.illinois.gov.

Where to Apply

CHICAGO

2444 W. Lawrence Ave.
(773) 334-6646

4931 W. Diversey Ave.
(773) 889-6820

1700 W. 18th St.
(312) 243-5100

1515 E. 71st St.
(773) 947-2500

837 W. 119th St.
(773) 821-4100

715 E. 47th St.
(773) 538-9811

Richard J. Daley College
7500 S. Pulaski Road
Bldg. 100
(773) 884-7000

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

723 W. Algonquin Rd.
(847) 981-7400

BOLINGBROOK

321 Quadrangle Dr.
(630) 759-0647

BERWYN / CICERO

2138 S. 61st Court
(708) 222-3100

BURBANK

5608 W. 75th Place
(708) 458-0500

CHICAGO HEIGHTS

1010 Dixie Highway
(708) 709-3000

ELGIN

30 DuPage Court
(847) 888-7900

GRAYSLAKE

800 Lancer Lane
(847) 543-7400

HARVEY

16845 S. Halsted
(708) 596-2325

JOLIET

250 N. Chicago St.
(815) 740-5100

KANKAKEE

255 N. Schuyler
(815) 932-0035

LOMBARD

837 S. Westmore Ave.
(630) 495-4345

MAYWOOD

35 S. 19th Ave.
(708) 338-6900

NORTH AURORA

2 Smoke Tree Plaza
(630) 844-6640

WOODSTOCK

500 Russel Court
(815) 338-7100

State of Illinois

Department of Employment Security



Apprenticeship Information



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IDES
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

What is an apprentice?

Apprenticeship qualifications vary by trade, but most require:

- A high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED)
- Your own transportation
- Ability to work with your hands

Many trades also require:

- Above-average math skills
- Completion of courses such as chemistry, drafting, industrial arts, English, algebra and geometry
- Ability to work at elevated heights



Trades offering apprenticeships

Boilermaker – Works with boilers and vats

Bricklayer – Builds with brick, cinder block or concrete block

Cabinetmaker – Builds cabinets and furniture using woodworking machines and tools

Carpenter – Works at a variety of building tasks using hand and power tools

Cement Mason – Lays and finishes concrete using hand and power tools

Construction Driver – Hauls and unloads material and equipment to and from construction job sites.

Drywall Finisher – Prepares drywall surfaces for painting and papering

Electrician – Installs and maintains electrical wiring and apparatus

Floor Coverer (Resilient) – Installs hardwood flooring, soft tile, linoleum, and carpeting

Glazier – Works with all types of glass and glass substitutes

Insulator – Installs insulation to protect against heat and cold

Millwright – Installs escalators and other conveyor systems, generators and electrical turbines

Operating Engineer – Operates heavy equipment like bulldozers, power shovels, graders and derricks

Ornamental Ironworker – Installs decorative ironwork

Painter/Decorator – Applies paint and paper to outdoor and indoor walls

Patternmaker – Makes metal foundry patterns, core boxes and match plates

Pipefitter – Installs and repairs low- and high-pressure pipe systems

Plasterer – Applies plaster to interior walls and ceilings

Plumber – Installs and maintains pipe and water systems

Precision Metalworker – Designs and makes special tools for mass production

Roofer – Installs and repairs a variety of roof surfaces

Sheet Metalworker – Works with sheet metal products such as ventilation units

Sprinkler Fitter – Installs fire-protection systems

Structural Ironworker – Assembles, installs and maintains iron and sheet structures

Terrazzo/Tile Layer – Installs terrazzo and tile to floors, walls and ceilings

Tuckpointer – Erects scaffolding, shoring and braces, and seals outside surfaces

What to bring to apply

Most apprenticeship programs require the following documents:

- Your high school diploma or GED certificate
- The names and addresses of the high schools or vocational schools you attended
- A copy of your birth certificate
- The names, addresses and telephone numbers of two or three persons who have agreed to serve as personal references
- If you are a veteran, your Certificate of Release or Discharge from active duty (Form DD-214)

Your local AIC Representative can provide a list of each program's documentation and requirements.

Equal employment opportunity

Apprenticeships provide equal employment opportunity. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. To be selected, you must meet the qualifications of the particular trade or program to which you are applying.

IDES is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all state and federal nondiscrimination laws in the administration of its programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact the office manager of the IDES office nearest you or the IDES Equal Opportunity Officer at (312) 793-9290 or TTY: (888) 340-1007.