

# Earn While You Learn: Become An Apprentice!

## IF YOU:

- Like good pay and great benefits
- Like to work with your hands
- Have a good mechanical aptitude
- Want a career, not just a job

## Why you should become an apprentice

Apprenticeship is the process of learning a skilled trade through on-the-job training (hands-on experience) plus related classroom education. As an apprentice, you are a paid employee. Your wages usually start at a percentage of the skilled worker (journeyworker) wage rate with set increases until your training is finished. Then, you earn the full journeyworker wages. Apprenticeship programs may also offer fringe benefits, like paid vacations and holidays, health insurance and retirement plans. Training is guided by an experienced journeyworker. It can last from one to five years, depending on the trade.

As an apprentice of a NYS Registered Apprenticeship program, you will take related classroom instruction. Classes cover the theory, principles and technical knowledge you need to do the job. Classes are usually taken outside working hours and include a minimum of 144 hours per year. Related instruction may be adult education courses like BOCES classes or classes at community colleges, industry plants or union facilities. In some programs, taking these classes may also earn you an associate degree! Apprenticeship program sponsors usually pay for these classes.

The number and types of apprenticeships available depend on industry needs. Hiring is done by members of a local apprenticeship

committee or a sponsoring employer. They use an unbiased selection process that is reviewed and approved by the Department of Labor. Openings are filled without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, veteran status, arrest record or marital status.

## How to qualify for apprenticeship

Qualifications vary according to the program. However, all NYS Registered Apprenticeship programs have a minimum age and require that applicants be physically able to do the job. Most program sponsors also require a high school diploma or equivalent certificate (TASC or GED), and/or the completion of some mathematics courses. Some construction and manufacturing trades require considerable physical stamina or some related work experience.

## How to find out about apprenticeship opportunities

You can go to any Department of Labor Career Center to get information about apprenticeships. In addition, all apprenticeship openings are listed online. Go to New York's Job Bank at [www.labor.ny.gov](http://www.labor.ny.gov) or the Department of Labor website at <http://www.labor.ny.gov/pressreleases/apprenticeshiparchive.shtm>. If you want to become an apprentice, you may contact:

- Apprenticeship program sponsors that are currently recruiting apprentices.
- A firm that has workers in the trade that interests you—the company might be willing to start an apprenticeship program.
- The local union or business organization for the trade that interests you.
- Your high school guidance counselor.



## Over 100 occupations to choose from

A few of the popular training programs include:

- Electrician
- Direct Support Professional
- Carpenter
- Firefighter
- Machinist
- Sheetmetal Worker
- Building Maintenance Mechanic
- Tool & Die Maker
- Moldmaker
- Plumber
- Roofer
- Elevator Servicer/Repairer
- Steamfitter
- Bricklayer/Mason
- Ironworker
- Stationary Engineer
- Plant Maintenance Electrician
- Glazier
- Model Maker
- Boilermaker
- Millwright
- Painter & Decorator
- Operating Engineer
- Electronics Technician

## How to learn more about apprenticeship

The New York State Department of Labor registers apprenticeship programs. Find a list of current programs at <http://www.labor.state.ny.us/apprenticeship/sponsor/index.asp>. If you would like more information about apprenticeship training, visit <http://labor.ny.gov/apprenticeship/general/registration.shtm>.

This page explains the program in greater detail, posts current apprenticeship opportunities and gives a complete listing of apprenticeable occupations. Information about apprenticeship is also available from Apprentice Training Representatives located at your local New York State Department of Labor Apprenticeship Field Office. These local offices are listed below.

## New York State Department of Labor Apprenticeship Field Offices:

### Albany

Building 12, Rm. 459  
State Office Building Campus  
Albany, NY 12240  
(518) 457-7745  
(518) 457-4497

### Buffalo

290 Main Street  
Mezzanine  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
(716) 851-2726

### Long Island

303 W. Old Country Rd.  
Hicksville, NY 11801  
(516) 934-8525

### New York City

9 Bond Street  
4th Fl., Room 4570  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 613-3603

### Rochester

276 Waring Road  
Rochester, NY 14609  
(585) 258-8885

### Syracuse

450 S. Salina Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
(315) 479-3228