



APPRENTICESHIP: A PRIMER FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS

Apprenticeship is a **blended learning model** combining college-articulated education with applied learning employment. Apprenticeship is an ideal post-secondary choice for students who want to reach a mid-level career position upon graduation, and for budget-conscious parents who understand the value of working and learning at the same time.

Education + Work = Success

What makes registered apprenticeship distinct from other post-secondary options **is the required connection to work**. Apprentices are students who are employed in their program of study. They receive direct, relevant experience in their chosen career, even advancing in their profession as they learn. As a result, they graduate an expert in their field—not a novice.

Apprenticeships exist in many high-demand, high-wage, high technology sectors across the country and globally. Most apprenticeships in the United States are registered federally and at the state level. Registered apprenticeships adhere to rigorous program standards, and are regulated just like peer programs in public and private colleges, universities, and career schools.

There must be a job opening for a student to begin his or her apprenticeship. Education and on-the-job training are usually concurrent. In order to graduate, an apprentice must successfully complete their schooling, which is a mix of academic and technical education, and their employment competencies. In many cases, apprentices earn a degree when they graduate.

How does apprenticeship compare to college programs?

There are many similarities between apprenticeship and college:

- Both are regulated and accredited or registered with governmental agencies
- Apprenticeships must adhere to industry-recognized standards; many college programs do, too
- Apprentices and college graduates receive a recognizable certificate or degree
- Apprenticeship and college instructors are credentialed educators
- Both will have competitive entrance requirements

Apprenticeships are NOT internships

Apprenticeships are far more demanding. In most established programs, the apprentice earns a living wage and benefits while completing their education. Not all interns are paid during their work experience—and not all interns are hired when they finish their practicum. In many cases apprentices can earn at least an associate degree concurrent to completing their apprenticeship. These dual accreditations can be incredibly useful in a young person's professional portfolio.

Construction Apprenticeships

The majority of apprentice-able pathways in Oregon are construction careers. Construction apprenticeships are a distinct route to the highest paid jobs in the sector. These apprenticeships include licensed professions, such as electricians and plumbers, as well as mechanical, structural, and finish crafts. Their work encompasses the design, building, and maintenance of nearly all engineered (people-made) environments. The construction apprentice graduate ranks among skilled crafts people with superior training in safety, accuracy, and artistry. Construction careers are typically ranked among the highest of green occupations. Well trained construction apprentices are stewards for the environment and their superior skill sets makes a difference in building, preserving and restoring homes, commercial businesses, roads, bridges and more. Multi-faceted young people who are strong in mind and body do quite well in this field.



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How does a person get accepted into an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeship is not for everyone. It is competitive and rigorous. Because the model is dependent upon a job opening, it is important to be the best candidate possible. Just like any college, every apprenticeship has different applications and times in which to apply and different prerequisites.

Applications for apprenticeships typically include:

- Admissions paperwork when the program of choice is accepting applications—in most cases, this will include resumes and transcripts. Each program is different and the candidate should find out if the application process is online or in person.
- Aptitude testing administered at a community or technical college. Many programs have prerequisites for math and reading comprehension. In addition to aptitude testing, the candidate may be asked to take an interest inventory.
- The candidate will be interviewed by the apprenticeship committee. Apprenticeship committees are comprised of business and labor leaders within the industry and they oversee the program curriculum, standards, and student selection. Preparing for an apprenticeship interview is essential—understand they are looking for individuals who demonstrate work readiness.

Generally, minimum prerequisites for apprenticeship include:

- High school diploma or GED
- Solid math and science grades in high school transcripts—at least B or better
- Eighteen years of age or older to complete an application
- Valid driver's license with a safe driving record
- Reliable transportation—apprentices may travel extensively for work
- Pass a drug test

Recommended coursework and activities for students while in high school:

For any apprentice-able occupation, a young person should plan to do the following in their high school program of study:

- Pursue additional, rigorous math and science beyond the high school graduation requirements—especially courses in algebra, geometry and trigonometry, environmental studies and physics
- Produce solid grades in language arts, particularly courses focusing on reading comprehension and idea synthesis
- Select professional-technical elective courses that will give them an advantage in the post-high school apprenticeship application process
- Engage in extracurricular activities including sports, service learning, and professional or entrepreneurial clubs related to their career interests

For more information and details regarding specific construction apprenticeship programs in the region visit:

www.build-oregon.com/education or

www.build-oregon.com/careers (see skilled trades section)