

Apprenticeship Programs

College is great, but it's not for everyone. While many jobs require a college degree these days, the trades are still a more than viable career choice. America is in the midst of a skilled labor shortage, as hundreds of thousands of available jobs go unfilled because workers lack the necessary training.

Here is a list of the skilled labor apprenticeship programs available in California:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air conditioning & refrigeration • Automotive • Boilermaker • Bricklayer • Carpenter • Cement mason • Communications technician • Construction inspector • Culinary & pastry • Drywall-lathing • Electrician • Firefighter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardwood floor layer • Heat & frost insulator • Heavy-duty coach mechanic • Ironworker • Landscaper – Utility fitters • Lithographer • Machinst • Meat cutter/Sausage maker • Mill cabinet • Millwright • Operating engineer • Painter • Pile-driver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plumber • Pointer/Cleaner/Caulker • Power lineman • Roofer & Waterproofer • Sheet metal • Solar turnbine • Sound & Communication • Sprinkler fitter • Stationary engineer • Steamfitter • Surveyor • Taper • Tile finisher
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For further information, visit www.calapprenticeship.org.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Apprenticeships

Q: What is the difference between registered apprenticeships and other types of training?

A: The registered apprenticeship system of training is unique in that it is the only formal, structured, and nationally recognized education and training program available that combines the two most common forms of career and occupational learning: classroom instruction with on-the-job training.

Not only do apprentices learn occupational skills in the classroom, their learning includes hands-on, paid, on-the-job training. Students learn and practice all phases of the trade/occupation in real-world applications. Apprenticeship programs must be registered with the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS).

Q: How long is the training?

A: Registered apprenticeship programs may take from 1 to 6 years to complete, depending upon the occupation. Most programs are 3 to 4 years in length.

Q: Are apprentices required to attend school?

A: Apprentices must attend related technical instruction, which is combined with on-the-job learning experience. Most programs require approximately 144 hours of related technical instruction per year.

Q: Can apprentices earn college credit for their registered apprenticeship experience?

A: Yes. Community and technical colleges offer college credit for the required related instruction in many registered apprenticeship programs.

Q: Are there age limits for apprentices?

A: Each industry establishes its own minimum-age requirement, although the typical minimum age is 18. There are no upper age limits on apprenticeships.

Q: Are apprentices paid?

A: Yes. Apprentices must be full-time employees of the employer sponsoring the training program. Typically, the wage of an apprentice starts at 40–50 percent of a skilled worker's wage. Wages increase progressively with satisfactory completion of work assignments and related technical instruction.

Q: What are the minimum educational/experience requirements for registered apprenticeship?

A: No experience is required of a new apprentice. Most registered apprenticeship programs require applicants to have a high school diploma or GED. Some occupations require completion of specific subjects, such as algebra, blueprint reading, or related shop work.

Q: What are the benefits of registered apprenticeship?

A: *For the employer:*

- Skilled workers trained to industry/employer specifications to produce quality results
- Reduced turnover
- Better informed and productive employees as a result of systematic training
- Apprentices who are more committed to the employer
- Increased productivity
- Reduced training costs

For the apprentice:

- Wages while learning a trade/occupation
- Guaranteed wage increases
- Credentials that are nationally recognized
- Opportunity for college credit