

# 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.



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## Where to Apply

### CHICAGO

2250 W. Addison St.  
(773) 296-6021

3500 W. Grand Ave.  
(773) 227-7117

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

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

1657 S. Blue Island Ave.  
(312) 243-5100

1515 E. 71<sup>st</sup> St.  
(773) 947-2500

8750 S. Stony Island Ave.  
(773) 221-3737

837 W. 119<sup>th</sup> St.  
(773) 821-4100

715 E. 47<sup>th</sup> 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. 61<sup>st</sup> Court  
(708) 222-3100

### BURBANK

5608 W. 75<sup>th</sup> Place  
(708) 458-0500

### CHICAGO HEIGHTS

1010 Dixie Highway  
(708) 709-3000

### ELGIN

30 Dupage Court  
(847) 888-7900

### EVANSTON

1615 Oak Ave.  
(847) 864-3530

### GRAYSLAKE

800 Lancer Lane  
(847) 543-7400

### HARVEY

16845 S. Halsted  
(708) 596-2325

### JOLIET

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

1115 Plainfield Rd.  
(815) 727-4444

### KANKAKEE

255 N. Schuyler  
(815) 932-0035

### LOMBARD

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

### MAYWOOD

35 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
(708) 338-6900

### NORTH AURORA

2 Smoke Tree Plaza  
(630) 844-6640

### WOODSTOCK

500 Russel Court  
(815) 338-7100

State of Illinois  
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Department of Employment Security  
Maureen T. O'Donnell, Director



# Apprenticeship Information



[www.ides.state.il.us](http://www.ides.state.il.us)



## Qualifications

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, cinderblock 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

**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 Metal Worker** – 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

**Terrazo/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 manager of the IDES office nearest you or the IDES Equal Opportunity Officer at (312) 793-9290 or TTY 1-888-340-1007.