



U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration

Registered Apprenticeship

Registered apprenticeship is a formalized career-training program that offers a combination of structured on-the-job training and related theoretical instruction tailored to industry requirements. Its goal is to produce skilled workers who are trained in all aspects of an occupation.

Every year, more than 440,000 Americans become apprentices, receiving training through approximately 37,000 apprenticeship programs. These programs generally are operated either by individual employers, employer associations, government entities or partnerships between businesses and labor unions. Program sponsors in the United States currently have links with more than a quarter million employers and numerous educational institutions. Apprenticeship training standards are industry-driven.

Apprentices, who must be at least 16 years old, complete one to six years of paid, supervised, work-based training and technical instruction that allows them to learn and perform at the highest skill levels in their professions. They receive an Apprenticeship Completion Certificate that is a recognized credential in their occupation of choice and many obtain credit from participating community colleges toward an Associate Degree. For businesses, apprenticeships serve as a pipeline for qualified job applicants. Workers who are cultivated and recruited through apprenticeships tend to have higher motivation and productivity. They also have lower worker compensation costs because apprenticeship programs place a strong emphasis on employee safety.

America's apprenticeship system was created by the National Apprenticeship Act of 1937, which directed the Secretary of Labor to establish labor standards for apprentices. The standards are administered by the Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services (ATELS) and State Apprenticeship Councils. ATELS registers apprenticeship programs and apprentices in 23 States as well as assisting and overseeing the State Councils, which register programs in 27 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Further information about registered apprenticeships is available on the Internet at http://www.doleta.gov/atels_bat.

You can access America's Workforce Network at <http://www.doleta.gov>, or by calling the Toll-Free Help Line at 1-877-US2-JOBS. (For TTY, call 1-877-TTY-JOBS.)



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Fact Sheets

The following is a list of Department of Labor-supported activities and services that are part of America's Workforce Network which may be of particular interest to workers, employers, and workforce development professionals. A fact sheet with specific information is available for each of the following areas:

- Accessing Services via Phone or Internet
- Adult Employment and Training Services
- America's Labor Market Information System
- America's Career Kit (Online Resources)
- America's Workforce Network
- Applying for ETA Grants
- Assistance for Trade-Impacted Workers
- Basic Information for Employers
- Basic Information for Workers and Job-Seekers
- Disability Employment and Training Services
- Dislocated Worker Program (Services for Laid-Off Workers)
- Foreign Labor Certification
- High-Tech Skills Training
- Job Corps
- Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Employment and Training Services
- Native American Employment and Training Services
- Older Workers Employment and Training Services
- One-Stop Employment and Training Services
- One-Stop Partners
- Registered Apprenticeship
- School-to-Work
- Tax Credit Programs
- Unemployment Insurance
- Welfare-to-Work
- Youth Opportunity (YO) Grants
- Youth Opportunity (YO) Movement

Available online at: <http://www.usworkforce.org/factsheets> or by calling (202) 693-3900. This Web address also provides links to other Federal partners under the Workforce Investment Act and other initiatives that provide additional services to enhance individual and community well-being.