



APPRENTICESHIP

What Parents Need to Know

Apprenticeship in Ontario

Apprenticeship is hands-on training for people who want to work in a skilled trade or occupation that includes learning new skills from skilled journeypersons.

Students can choose an apprenticeship as their pathway after high school. Other postsecondary pathways include college, university or the workplace.

Apprenticeship training provides access to well-paying jobs that demand a high level of skill, judgement and creativity. Apprentices are paid while gaining work experience, and their wages rise as their level of skill increases.



Many kinds of jobs are available through apprenticeships

There are currently more than 150 trades in Ontario. Trades don't just involve tools and technology. Most trades also involve working with people. Students can choose apprenticeships in four different sectors:

- construction
- industrial
- motive power
- service

Some examples of the jobs available in the four sectors:

- **construction:** electrician; sheet metal worker; brick and stone mason
- **industrial:** tool and die maker; draftsperson-mechanical; welder
- **motive power:** automotive service technician; automotive painter; marine engine technician
- **service:** child and youth worker; hairstylist; chef; network technician (IT)

A full list of trades is available at:

<http://www.collegeoftrades.ca/about/trades-in-ontario>

Apprenticeship training lets students "test drive" a career

For secondary school students who may be thinking about a future in a trade, there are lots of opportunities available that allow them to "test drive" their future occupation. Starting their apprenticeship in high school allows students to complete their apprenticeship in less time than it takes through the traditional route. This gives students a jump on their career by putting them on the fast track to a skilled, well-paying job.



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The advantages of starting an apprenticeship while in high school

If students plan carefully, it is possible for them to graduate from high school with:

- a training agreement signed with an employer and registered with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
- membership within the Ontario College of Trades
- a portion of their on-the-job training requirements completed
- their Level 1 in-school training already completed.

By starting their apprenticeship while still in school, students are moving much faster towards becoming a journeyman than the traditional route taken by adults starting their training after they have left school.

Once students graduate from high school, they can move on to the next stage in their apprenticeship by finding an employer who is willing to sponsor them as an apprentice. After finding an employer, the student can then contact the local Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities office to register as an apprentice. Or, they can continue with the same employer they were with in high school. Most apprenticeships take between two and five years to complete, as apprentices alternate between on-the-job and in-school training.



How students can get started on an apprenticeship

There are grade 9 to 12 high school courses that may help prepare students for a trade. Talk to your child's guidance counsellor about the opportunities available and the courses that can help your son or daughter get on the right path.

Students can prepare for an apprenticeship by:

1) learning about a trade – by going to a career fair; visiting a workplace; job shadowing; taking co-op, taking Grade 9 courses related to a trade; researching occupations.

2) focusing on one of the four sectors (construction, industrial, motive power or service) – by taking Grade 10 or 11 courses related to a trade; participating in a co-op placement in a specific sector; participating in the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, Specialist High Skills Major Program and/or Dual Credits.

3) choosing a specific trade – by taking secondary school courses, including cooperative education related to the trade and completing in-school apprenticeship training.

Learn more about apprenticeship training on our website:

www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/apprentices/app_train.html

Experiential learning programs like apprenticeship training are helping our students to achieve excellence. This is a key goal of the government's renewed vision for education in Ontario. Find out more at www.ontario.ca/eduision

Helping students find their personal pathway to success

Secondary schools and school boards offer programs that focus on students' preparation for life after high school (through apprenticeship, college, community living, university, workplace) and address students' particular interests, strengths, needs and aspirations. These programs help students in making successful transitions as they graduate from high school and move onto the next stage in their life.

Creating Pathways to Success puts students at the centre of their own learning. Students are encouraged to discover who they are, explore opportunities, set goals and make plans to achieve them.

Creating Pathways to Success: Education and Career/Life Planning at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/cps/index.html