



Launching A High-Skill, High-Paying, Construction Career Through Union Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship Community of Practice
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Why the Construction Trades?



- **Lifelong, Meaningful Career**
 - Lifetime of economic security and satisfaction—with more action and hands-on experience than an office job.
 - Be part of a team - building something that lasts
 - Career advancement - become a business manager or owner



- **Wages & Benefits**
 - Starting pay at \$17 - \$26 per hour with contractual increases
 - Journey level pay at \$25 - \$60 per hour
 - Benefits: pension, annuity, healthcare
 - Union Journey level workers can make \$40,000 - \$80,000 (not including benefits and potential for overtime pay)
 - Only 4 out of 10 college graduates will earn more than a skilled union journey level worker!

Why Now?



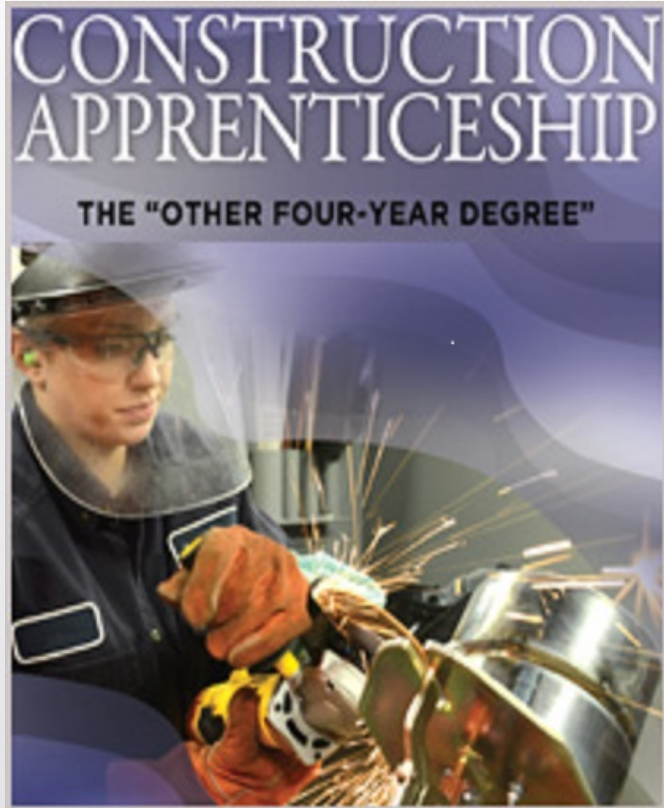
- One of the largest industries in the country
- Employment of construction and extraction occupations in US is projected to grow 11 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations, a gain of about 758,400 new jobs.
- While the growth average for all occupations in Massachusetts from 2012 -2022 is projected at 11.3%, the growth rate for the construction trades is expected to range from 17% to 46% over this period.
- Increasing apprenticeships is a DOL national priority
- Women and people of color have been historically under-represented in the construction industry but many people are working to change that

Entry Points



- 17 Different Trades:
 - 17 different processes, requirements, timelines to apply for apprenticeship
 - 17 different points of contact
- Two paths to entry:
 1. Apprenticeship (for inexperienced workers): Point of contact is trade apprenticeship programs Training Directors
 2. Entry as journey-level worker (for experienced workers): Point of contact is local Business Agent

Registered Apprenticeship



- 3-5 years of classroom and on-the-job training: *"The Other 4-Year Degree"*
- Earn while you learn (no college debt)
- Defined advancement
 - Steps based on time in program or competency levels achieved.
 - Regular wage increases
- College credits offered through many apprenticeship programs (i.e. Wentworth)
- Regular opportunities for continuing education after apprenticeship

A 2012 Mathematica study found that Registered Apprenticeship program completers earn \$240,000 more over their lifetimes than similar non-participants.



Advantages of Apprenticeship

Production	Workforce	Leadership Skills
		
Increased value and fewer errors	Highly trained. Minimal turnover	Responsibly independent. Ability to multi-task and problem solve



91% of apprentices that complete an apprenticeship are still employed 9 months later



The profit generated by an apprentice

tops the costs of training



Employers can profit
\$1.30 to \$3.00 for every
\$1 spent in training

Reference: Construction Industry Institute, University of Texas, Research Summary 23s-1, August 2007.

Union Apprenticeship in Massachusetts



- Over 7800 active construction apprentices – 85% are in union programs
- 7.5% women and 26% people of color in union programs
- Over 13% of new apprentices in last quarter were women
- Percent of women apprentices in Massachusetts who are enrolled in Joint Union programs: **92%**
- Percent of minority apprentices in Massachusetts who are enrolled in Joint Union programs: **88%**

Baseline Requirements



- Interest in construction career
- Able to perform physically challenging work in weather extremes
- 18 years of age at start of training
- High school diploma or GED; aptitude tests for some trades
- Must have a car or means of transportation to job sites in locations across the region
- Drug-free and able to pass a drug test
- Courses taught in English
- CORI requests not applicable for apprenticeship, may apply to certain job sites



		WHAT YOU NEED						
		High School Diploma or GED	Reliable Transportation	Driver's License	Written Exam	Pass a Drug Test	18+ Years	Math Pre-Requisites
CAREERS	Asbestos Heat & Frost Insulators		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Boilermakers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Bricklayers		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Carpenters	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Cement Masons		✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Electricians	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Elevator Constructors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Ironworkers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Laborers		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Operating Engineers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Painting/Drywall Finishers		✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Plasterers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Plumbers & Pipefitters	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Roofers & Waterproofers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Sheet Metal Workers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Sprinkler Fitters	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Teamsters	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Tile Layers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	

Challenges



- Application process is lengthy and can be complicated
- Industry is cyclical
- There can be layoffs between jobs
- Work outside in all weather conditions
- Hard physical labor, bumps and bruises

Pre-Apprenticeship



Prepare, Connect, Employ

- Pipeline for low to moderate income urban youth, women, people of color, and individuals with disabilities to enter family-sustaining careers
- Prepare participants to enter into a registered apprenticeship program
- Classroom and hands-on instruction, and field trips to apprenticeship training centers and active construction sites
- Participants learn about all of the trades and receive support in applying for an apprenticeship opportunity

Program Elements



- Outreach & recruitment
- Applicant intake & assessment
- Employability and Occupational Skills training
- Employment/apprenticeship placement
- Case management/Support Services
- Retention
- Industry engagement and community partnerships

Building Pathways in Action





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