

## **Get Hands-On Experience With an Apprenticeship**

If you like hands-on learning, an apprenticeship might be for you. Apprentices train for a career by working on the job and taking related classes—all while getting paid.

Apprentices get on-the-job experience working for an employer—called a sponsor—and classroom training at a nearby technical college or union training center. Basically, an apprentice is somewhere between employee and student.

### **What's in it for you**

According to the Labor Department, apprentices in registered programs can expect these benefits:

- A paycheck;
- Hands-on career training;
- An education;
- A career path;
- Little or no school debt; and
- National industry certification.

### **What to expect**

According to the DOL, sponsors often use these selection criteria when choosing an apprentice: fair aptitude tests, interviews, physical tests, school grades, and previous work experience.

Once you are accepted, most apprenticeship programs are time-based, meaning you need to work a certain number of hours a year for a certain length; many require you to pass competency exams during your program, as well.

### **Where to find 'em**

Apprenticeships are posted like jobs. You have to research and find them just like you would find any other job, but your local [Career One Stop](#) center is a good resource.

You want to make sure you are looking for an officially "registered" apprenticeship.

### **Do your research**

Before you accept an apprenticeship, be sure to research what you are getting into. Not only is an apprenticeship time-consuming, it's challenging, too.

If you do a little research and understand what to expect, you'll have a much better chance of completing the apprenticeship in a field that suits you.

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