

Apprenticeship F.A.Q.

What is Apprenticeship?

Apprenticeship is not just a job, but a career opportunity! It is occupational training that combines supervised on-the-job training experience with classroom instruction. Apprentices usually begin at half the salary of journey workers - those who have completed their training and have industry certification. Instead, apprentices receive pay increases as they learn to perform more complex tasks. When they become journey workers, they increase their chances of finding a well-paying job in industry and may become supervisors or go into business for themselves. Apprenticeship committees, made up of employee and employer representatives from the specific industries, operate apprenticeship programs. Both State and Federal Government have a role in regulating apprenticeship programs, along with the committees and apprenticeship coordinator.

How do I apply for an apprenticeship program?

You may pick up an application packet at Klamath Community College from either Student Services, or the apprenticeship coordinator. Apprenticeship committees will review the completed applications for their respective program. Applicants can also find apprenticeship opening announcements for [statewide apprenticeship openings](#) at the Bureau of Labor and Industry website: www.boli.state.or.us

How long must I wait for an opening?

The waiting period, from the date an application is filed to placement in an apprenticeship program, varies by industry. It can last from two weeks to two years. This is a competitive process and it's not unusual for people to apply more than once. The apprenticeship committee reviews applications to make sure the applicants meet the minimum qualifications for the program. If an applicant is qualified, the application is ranked by evaluating of past experience and education. The applicant is placed on a qualified list, called a pool of eligibles, in order of their ranking. If you do not meet the minimum qualifications or if your application ranks low on the pool of eligibles, contact the committee to find out what you can do to improve your chances and try again. Employers use the qualified list - or pool of eligibles - to fill apprenticeship vacancies as they become available.

How long must I serve as an apprentice?

Typically, apprenticeships last two to four years, depending on industry requirements.

What occupations are available?

At Klamath Community College, we currently offer apprenticeship for the following trades: Inside Electrician, Plant Electrician, Limited Maintenance Electrician, Plumber, Millwright, and Pipefitter.

Can I expect steady work as an apprentice?

An apprentice works about as much as the average industry worker does. And, like fellow workers, an apprentice may be subjected to industry layoffs. Most employers, however, make an effort to have the apprentice work as steadily as possible.

How much pay does an apprentice receive?

Although it varies from industry to industry, the average starting wage of an apprentice is about 50 percent of a journey workers rate of pay. Apprentices usually earn a five-percent raise every six months if training and school performance is satisfactory.

Are apprentices required to attend school?

Apprentices must attend related training at Klamath Community College along with on-the-job-training experience. Most programs require approximately 144 hours of school per year. This usually works out to two evenings per week during the regular school year (Fall, Winter and Spring). Like other aspects of apprenticeship, the local committee determines the related training requirements according to industry standards.

Are there age limits for apprentices?

The minimum age is 18 to become an apprentice.

What are the minimum educational requirements for apprenticeship?

Most apprenticeship programs require applicants to have a high school diploma or GED certificate. Some occupations require completion of specific subjects such as algebra.

Who can apply for apprenticeship?

Anyone who meets the apprenticeship committee's qualifications may apply.

Who pays for the classroom training?

It varies among different occupations, industries and employers. In some cases, apprentices pay the cost of related training. In other cases, employers pay the training costs.

What other costs must be paid by the apprentice?

Costs vary depending on the program. It's important for apprentices to have reliable transportation available in order to get to a job on time, travel from job site to job site or run errands associated with the job. Many programs require that apprentices have a basic tool kit and/or appropriate work clothes, work boots and safety equipment such as gloves or goggles.

Some programs supply or pay for these requirements and others do not. It's important to talk with the committee about the requirements, the costs to the apprentice and whether there is any financial help available.

What are some of the career opportunities open to journey workers?

Highly trained journey workers are sought by industry for well-paying jobs. Many journey workers advance to become supervisors or superintendents. Others, with additional years of advanced studies, go on to become technicians and engineers. There are many opportunities for advancement, depending on the abilities, attitudes and ambitions of the individual.

How do I prepare for apprenticeship?

Today's competitive industries require employees, who are able to perform technical tasks, exercise good judgment and possess a strong work ethic. The importance of a well-rounded high school education cannot be over emphasized. A strong background in math and science is important. Good attendance is a necessity.

How do I receive my on-the-job training?

After becoming indentured as an apprentice, you'll be assigned to an employer who is registered as a training agent with the committee. Such "training agents" have promised to provide the on-the-job training and supervision according to approved industry standards. The employer evaluates progress and makes recommendations to the apprenticeship committee regarding your advancement in the program.

What is my relationship with the apprenticeship committee?

As an apprentice, you make a registration agreement (become indentured) with your apprenticeship committee. The committee's responsibility is to provide the opportunity for you to become a skilled journey worker in the occupation you've chosen. The committee must assure that you're treated and evaluated fairly during your apprenticeship. The committee decides what employer you are assigned to, when you advance in the program and what rules and policies you must follow. You have the responsibility to fully participate in the apprenticeship program by working cooperatively with the training agent you've been assigned to, to complete all of your related training classes, and to follow the committee's rules and policies. If you have any questions, please contact the apprenticeship coordinator.