



Skilled Trades & Apprenticeships

What are skilled trades careers?

Skilled trades careers are jobs that require specific training, such as a carpentry, tile setting, electrician, or plumbing. A **tradesperson** is a worker who specializes in an occupation that requires work experience, on-the-job training, and sometimes tech school training.

What different training levels does a skilled tradesperson have?

- **An apprentice** is an employee who “learns a craft through planned, supervised, on-the-job training combined with classroom instruction.”
- **A journey worker** is a person fully skilled in a trade. Some trades also have a master, which is a higher level of skilled worker.

What is an apprenticeship?

A **Vermont Registered Apprenticeship** is an employer-sponsored training program that provides both supervised work experience and related instruction. Nearly 700 active apprentices in Vermont work in more than 25 different occupations.

How does an apprenticeship differ from other types of training?

Apprenticeships include **on-the-job training** and **classroom instruction**, usually at the same time. Apprentices learn both the theoretical and practical aspects of the job.

What are some things you can do right now?

- First, **start at home!** If you’re thinking about the trades, take up a hobby. Many trades are things you can start out doing as hobbies/household projects in your spare time.
- **Look into tech center training:** Does the tech center associated with your high school have a program for the trade that you’re interested in? Contact them to find out.

What is the path to becoming a tradesperson?

- **Review the VT Registered Apprenticeship list** on the [Department of Labor website](#).
- **Create a list of trades** that interest you and learn more about them at [mynextmove.org](#).
- **Find a sponsor** who participates in the Registered Apprenticeships program by visiting the [Department of Labor website](#).

What are the requirements of a tradesperson?

- **Other instruction may be required:** Plumbing and electrical apprentices attend classes through Vermont Technical College at sites around the state. In other occupations, students may attend classes offered by the company they’re apprenticing with. In addition, union sponsors provide related instruction through classes at union training centers.
- Almost all trades require **a high school diploma or GED certificate**, some basic math and science courses, aptitude and the physical ability to perform the work.
- **Most apprenticeship programs last from 2 to 4 years.** Apprentices work on actual job sites under the supervision of qualified journey workers. The training may include courses in math, sciences, and other craft-related technical subjects.

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