Trades Step by Step
Part 1: Overview of Apprenticeships and Pre-Apprenticeships
Frequently Asked Questions
Date: January 30th, 2024

Q1: Are the apprentices paid while attending the Certified Classroom instruction?

A1: Not always, it depends on the program. Some programs have classroom work in evenings, winters, etc. Some allow you to apply for unemployment. Ask programs specifically what they expect.

Q2: Can a 17-year-old apply for an apprenticeship so long as the apprenticeship begins after their 18th birthday?

A2: Yes. Some programs have that outlined in their standard. You would have to confirm with each standard.

Q3: At the time of application, do any of the apprentices require that the applicant already has a job in the field?

A3: No. Some programs do award points on applications for previous experience.

Q4: More information on how to apply.

A4: Each standard has contact information located at the end on who to contact about applying. The BOLI-ATD website also has contact information, including websites, for programs. Reach out to each program individually on when they are accepting applications.

Q5: What happens if someone starts an apprenticeship, and it was required to finish in four years and they quit after two?

A5: Then you have left your apprenticeship. Apprenticeship agreements can be cancelled by request of an apprentice at any time and an apprentice can request a leave of absence. All programs are required to have a policy and procedures that outlines leave of absence requests.

Q6: I have heard it is very competitive to get into an apprenticeship and most people who apply have worked multiple years in construction. Is this true?

A6: Some programs are more competitive such as elevator operators or electricians, who are open for applications once a year or every other year for a short period of time. It depends on the occupation and location of the program. [Pre-apprenticeships](#) are often a "leg-up" with direct entry agreements for certain programs.

Q7: What are the least competitive apprenticeship programs?

A7: Some programs are open year-round to applications and have very minimal Minimum Qualification requirements such as Cement finishers, laborers, and some electrical programs.

Q8: What is the best source for finding a list of pre-apprenticeship programs?

A8: BOLI ATD website [pre-apprenticeship landing page](#).

Q9: Some programs require that an applicant work for a TA for 500-750 hours prior to being able to apply for an open apprenticeship.

A9: TA = training agent, also known as employer, may mean getting an entry level job at facility such as a wood mill to gain the required hours to enter their apprenticeship program.

Q10: When reading about how they are placed, it sounds like they might not get work on each day they are available. Is there a certain number of paid hours most apprenticeships end up getting per week?

A10: Within each standard, it states the minimum number of hours they must be employed.

Q11: At the beginning of the presentation some less traditional apprenticeships were mentioned (non-trades/construction). Could you talk a little more about those?

A11: Initiative to expand apprenticeships. Listed on [BOLI-ATD website](#). Nontraditional trades include: Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, Certified Nursing Assistant, Dental Assistant, Early Childhood Educator, etc. Please see the website for the full list of registered apprenticeship opportunities.

A12: For those of us supporting high school students, is there a way to access a list of apprenticeship options that includes when and how regularly each is open to applications – crucial info, especially for HS seniors who want to get rolling.

A12: Go to [website and look by occupation](#) and attend the next two webinars where we discuss resources and the application process further. Contact each program individually to determine application process.