Construction careers provide a lifetime of learning new technologies and skills in a variety of settings. Here’s how to get started on a path to a construction trades apprenticeship program.

HOW TO GET READY FOR A CAREER IN THE CONSTRUCTION TRADES

High school coursework
- Algebra II (at least 3 credits)
- Geometry
- Language arts (4 credits)
- Science (3 credits)
- Career and technology education
- Electives (art)
- Industrial arts

Develop personal skills
- Be on time
- Work hard every day
- Follow directions
- Ask questions
- Open a bank account
- Get a driver’s license
- Have reliable transportation
- Volunteer

Stay physically active
- Exercise regularly
- Lift weights
- Eat healthy foods
- Drink plenty of water
- Be drug-free

Research careers and opportunities
- Visit www.constructioncareers.org
- YouTube: “Apprenticeship: Building Your Career”
- “A Career in the Trades: Debunking the Myths”
- Volunteer with groups like Habitat for Humanity or Urban HomeWorks

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

dli.apprenticeship@state.mn.us • www.dli.mn.gov • (651) 284-5090 • 1-800-342-5354
Minnesota’s apprenticeship system offers an opportunity for a person with limited job skills to enter a high-wage industry, gaining experience and salary increases through on-the-job training and classroom instruction.

The earn-while-you-learn system enables individuals to move to the top of the wage scale in three to five years.

**IS APPRENTICESHIP THE RIGHT CHOICE?**

**APPRENTICESHIP CAREER TRACKS**

Apprenticeship programs offer skills in a wide variety of careers. Some of the most common include:

- Heat and frost insulators
- Operating engineers
- Construction craft laborers
- Cement masons
- Limited energy installers
- Electricians
- Carpenters
- Ironworkers
- Millwrights
- Plumbers
- Pipefitters
- Plasterers
- Teamsters
- Tile setters
- Boilermakers
- Sprinklerfitters
- Floor coverers
- Elevator workers
- Sheet metal workers
- Roofers and waterproofers
- Sign and display installers
- Bricklayers
- Painters, wallcoverers, drywall installers

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Private college

Student pays

$133k

The average cost of four-year private college tuition in Minnesota.

Public college

Student pays

$29k

The average cost of four-year state university tuition in Minnesota.

Apprenticeship

Student EARNs

$144k

Average wages earned by an apprentice during four years of on-the-job training.