



TRAIN BUILD MASTER

Popular Delaware Apprenticeship Occupations



Electrician

Average Entry Wage: \$38,646
Average Experience Wage: \$68,370



Plumbers & Pipefitters

Average Entry Wage: \$41,704
Average Experience Wage: \$73,486



HVAC

Average Entry Wage: \$39,957
Average Experience Wage: \$58,739



Carpentry

Average Entry Wage: \$36,275
Average Experience Wage: \$58,947



Construction Laborer

Average Entry Wage: \$28,163
Average Experience Wage: \$41,954



Auto Technician

Average Entry Wage: \$28,371.20
Average Experience Wage: \$52,790

Note: The average entry-level wage as an apprenticeship is \$14.70 while the average entry-level wage as a journeyman is \$24. Wages vary by employer and trade.

References: de.gov/DelawareWages2019

By The Numbers



1,676
Registered
Apprentices



419
Registered
Sponsors



20+
Occupations
with a program



16
Minimum
Age



26
Average
Apprenticeship
Age



4
Average Length
of a program

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About

Registered Apprenticeship is a commitment that prepares an individual for a career in various trades. Registered Apprenticeship is an “[earn-while-you-learn](#)” model to prepare workers for careers. The [registered apprentice](#) receives a combination of related technical instruction and [on-the-job training](#) with an employer who is a [registered sponsor](#) who elects to sponsor you to be a registered apprentice. Typically, an apprentice works during the day and attends school at night. You learn on the job by someone who is skilled in the trade (mentor).

On-the-job training is facilitated by your mentor, who is a skilled employee who serves as a mentor to the apprentice(s). It’s your career — your choice — your future. In this world of infinite career choices, emergent technology, and industry innovation, being an apprentice is a way to learn master your chosen craft.

[Delaware Registered Apprenticeship programs include](#) the traditional trades, as well as expanding apprenticeship programs in the following: auto, culinary, child care, IT, healthcare and beyond.

Benefits

- Get paid while getting trained
- Increased skills
- Higher wages
- National credential
- Career advancement
- Tuition-free education*

Requirements

- Must be at least 16 years old to be a registered apprentice.
- **An apprentice must be employed with a registered sponsor through the Delaware Office of Apprenticeship & Training (DOL).**
- Your employer must submit a formal agreement with Delaware Office of Apprenticeship & Training (DOL).

Support for Delaware’s Apprenticeship programs are provided by the 2019-2022 Apprenticeship State Expansion (ASE) Grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration. The overall funds of this grant total \$714,251.37, of which federal funds comprise 100 percent. The remaining 0 percent is comprised of local state, general, and special funds.

Action Steps



Ask your employer to sponsor you

- Ask your current employer if they would be interested in sponsoring you as an apprentice.



Determine occupation if not employed

- Registered Apprenticeship is occupation driven.
- Search for occupations listed by trade or county at de.gov/apprenticeship.



Find employment if not employed

- Search for Registered Sponsors listed by trade or county at de.gov/apprenticeship.
- Contact employers and ask if they are hiring registered apprentices.
- Create jobseeker account to build your resume and look for employment: de.gov/joblink.



Get hired

- Your employer sponsors you.
- Sign a Registered Apprenticeship Agreement Form.
- Your employer submits the form to DE DOL’s Office of Apprenticeship & Training.



Take classes

Your employer will direct you where to go for classes, whether it’s at a vocational school or at another location internally. [Learn a trade in high school?](#) You may be eligible for advanced placement in the Registered Apprenticeship program. If you graduated from one of the six vocational technical high schools in Delaware, you are eligible to apply for an exemption of the first year in the education component of the program. Contact your local vocational school about training at any of the Adult Education locations in New Castle County, Kent County, or Sussex County.

- **New Castle County Vo-Tech:** (302) 683-3652
- **Polytech:** (302) 697-4545
- **Sussex Tech:** (302) 856-9035



Stay Informed

Sign-up for quarterly newsletters for news and updates, job posts, events, and more at de.gov/deapprenticeshipnewsletter.

FAQs

Is there any cost being an apprentice?

Most apprentices experience no costs as they are paid for by the state or your employer. Some apprentices may have to pay a registration fee for school and tools. If your related instruction is at a Vo-Tech Adult Education school, then your Apprenticeship Agreement Form will have to be provided in order to waive the tuition. The Apprentice or Sponsor provides the Apprenticeship Agreement Form to the local Vo-Tech Adult Education Division when registering for tuition-waived courses. The Apprentice or Sponsor pays the registration fee - prices vary at each location.

What is the Department of Labor (DOL) role?

The staff in the Office of Apprenticeship in Division of Employment & Training (DET) at DOL registers and monitors programs to ensure safety, compliance and quality. Staff investigates and evaluates complaints.

Who are Registered Sponsors?

Employers who employ apprentices and provides on-the-job training.

When do I complete my apprenticeship?

Most are 4 year programs, but can range from 1 - 5 years depending on the trade. While registered, you will complete the requirement of on-the-job training hours and school curriculum to receive journey papers from the State of Delaware.

How much related instruction (hours) do I have to attend?

The recommendation amount of hours for related instruction is at least 144 hours (example: you could go two nights a week for 4 hours) through the academic year.

How do I know that I’m a Registered Apprentice?

You can contact the Office of Apprenticeship to verify that you are a registered apprentice. Registered Apprentices sign an Agreement form with your Employer, and the Office of Apprenticeship. At this point the employee becomes a Registered Apprentice.