An apprentice is a paid worker who is enrolled in a special training program administered by an employer in partnership with a labor organization or trade association. Most apprentices work in trades related to construction.

An apprenticeship is the best route to a career in a skilled trade. Such careers offer excellent wages and benefits. They also provide a sense of accomplishment, as the results of your work are there for all to see.

Many job opportunities – During the next 10 years, the number of construction-related jobs in Illinois is expected to grow at a healthy pace. The greatest growth is projected to be in the specialty trades industry for occupations such as electricians, painters and plumbers.

Time spent in training – Most apprenticeships take three to five years to complete. A typical program includes 2,000 hours of on-the-job training, and a minimum of 144 hours per year of related classroom instruction.

Wages paid to apprentices – Wages vary widely by trade, with beginning apprentices typically earning from 30 to 70 percent of the journeyworker’s wage for the given trade. Pay is gradually increased over the length of the apprenticeship until training is completed, and the apprentice graduates to full journeyworker status.

The IDES offices listed on the back of this brochure serve as Apprenticeship Information Centers (AIC). AIC representatives can provide you with detailed information on the trades of your choice, including the requirements and qualifications for entry into each program.

Note: The information contained in this publication is subject to change at any time. For the latest information, visit the IDES website at www.ides.illinois.gov.
Apprenticeship qualifications vary by trade, but most require:

- A high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (GED)
- Your own transportation
- Ability to work with your hands

Many trades also require:

- Above-average math skills
- Completion of courses such as chemistry, drafting, industrial arts, English, algebra and geometry
- Ability to work at elevated heights

### What is an apprentice?

Boilermaker – Works with boilers and vats

Bricklayer – Builds with brick, cinder block or concrete block

Cabinetmaker – Builds cabinets and furniture using woodworking machines and tools

Carpenter – Works at a variety of building tasks using hand and power tools

Cement Mason – Lays and finishes concrete using hand and power tools

**Construction Driver** – Hauls and unloads material and equipment to and from construction job sites.

Drywall Finisher – Prepares drywall surfaces for painting and papering

Electrician – Installs and maintains electrical wiring and apparatus

Floor Coverer (Resilient) – Installs hardwood flooring, soft tile, linoleum, and carpeting

Glazier – Works with all types of glass and glass substitutes

Insulator – Installs insulation to protect against heat and cold

Millwright – Installs escalators and other conveyor systems, generators and electrical turbines

**Operating Engineer** – Operates heavy equipment like bulldozers, power shovels, graders and derricks

Ornamental Ironworker – Installs decorative ironwork

Painter/Decorator – Applies paint and paper to outdoor and indoor walls

Patternmaker – Makes metal foundry patterns, core boxes and match plates

Pipefitter – Installs and repairs low- and high-pressure pipe systems

Plasterer – Applies plaster to interior walls and ceilings

Plumber – Installs and maintains pipe and water systems

Precision Metalworker – Designs and makes special tools for mass production

Roofer – Installs and repairs a variety of roof surfaces

Sheet Metalworker – Works with sheet metal products such as ventilation units

Sprinkler Fitter – Installs fire-protection systems

Structural Ironworker – Assembles, installs and maintains iron and sheet structures

Terrazzo/Tile Layer – Installs terrazzo and tile to floors, walls and ceilings

Tuckpointer – Erects scaffolding, shoring and braces, and seals outside surfaces

### Trades offering apprenticeships

**What to bring to apply**

Most apprenticeship programs require the following documents:

- Your high school diploma or GED certificate
- The names and addresses of the high schools or vocational schools you attended
- A copy of your birth certificate
- The names, addresses and telephone numbers of two or three persons who have agreed to serve as personal references
- If you are a veteran, your Certificate of Release or Discharge from active duty (Form DD-214)

Your local AIC Representative can provide a list of each program's documentation and requirements.

**Equal employment opportunity**

Apprenticeships provide equal employment opportunity. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. To be selected, you must meet the qualifications of the particular trade or program to which you are applying.

IDES is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all state and federal nondiscrimination laws in the administration of its programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Contact the office manager of the IDES office nearest you or the IDES Equal Opportunity Officer at (312) 793-9290 or TTY: (888) 340-1007.