

# Exploring Skilled Trades & Apprenticeships

## What Is a Skilled Trade?

Skilled trades are everywhere and directly impact our quality of life.

Skilled trades fall into the following categories:

- Construction and Maintenance
- Transportation
- Manufacturing
- Service



# There are over 200 trades to choose from!

## Reasons to learn a trade

- Skilled tradespeople have **OPPORTUNITY**
- Skilled tradespeople are in **DEMAND**
- Skilled tradespeople earn **GREAT PAY**

## Sample skilled trades careers

### Construction and Maintenance

- Bricklayer
- Electrician
- Heavy Machine Operator
- Sheet Metal Worker
- Carpenter
- Plumber

### Transportation

- Automotive Technician
- Small Engine and Equipment Mechanic
- Aircraft Maintenance Engineer
- Agricultural Equipment Technician
- Auto Body Repairer
- Motorcycle Mechanic

### Manufacturing

- Millwright
- Metal Fabricator
- Power System Operator
- Tool and Die Maker
- Welder
- Machinist

### Service

- Graphic Arts
- Cosmetologist/Barber
- Chef
- Appliance Service Technician
- Horticulturist (Landscape)

## How do I get into a trade?

You can get into a trade through a few different routes. For some fields, companies will hire entry-level workers and train them in-house. For others, you'll need to get a certificate or associate degree, or complete a registered apprenticeship. While the process of learning a trade varies somewhat depending on the specific career, there are a few steps that apply in most situations. Here is the basic procedure for how to learn a trade:

### Post-Secondary Training

- Employers may require it
- Certificate and associate degree programs available
- Some schools offer pre-apprenticeships courses
- Types of trade/technical schools: community college, vocational schools, career colleges, and technical institutes

### Local Programs

- [Henry Ford College](#)
- [Wayne County Community College](#)
- [Macomb Community College](#)
- [Washtenaw Community College](#)
- [MIAT](#)
- [UTI](#)
- [Detroit Training Center](#)
- [Southeast Michigan Construction Academy](#)

## Apprenticeships

- On-the-job training with technical training to become highly skilled tradesperson.
- Paid on-the-job training with an experienced mentor
- Relevant classroom instruction
- Incremental pay raises
- An industry-recognized credential

## Resources

- [Going Pro: Skilled Trades](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor](#)
- [Pure Michigan Talent Connect](#)
- [MUST Construction Careers](#)
- [Indeed.com](#)
- [Linked In](#)



## What Can I Do Now?

**Start at home:** Many skilled trades jobs are actually things you can at least start out doing as hobbies/chores/household projects in the comfort of your own home or garage.

**Receive formal training in your field:** After graduating high school, most tradesmen will attend some sort of schooling for a year or two, be it a community college or technical school. While formal training like this may not be required for apprenticeships, these beginner's courses will give you a leg up on other candidates.

**Create a resume:** A summary of your work history, skills, and education.

**Obtain entry level position:** Entry level positions allows you to come in with literally no experience, start earning a paycheck, and start learning a trade.

**Apply for apprenticeship:** Check the website for the apprenticeship program that is of interest to you. Identify the application window for the apprenticeship program. Some programs may offer ongoing applications, while other may only accept application once a year.

***Be patient...***

***Be passionate...***

***Be persistent.***

***Embrace the journey  
from "job" to "craft".***

