

# HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT APPRENTICESHIP FOR YOU



## Learn Your Options

Do you know what kinds of jobs exist in construction? Did you know that construction careers not only include electricians, plumbers, and carpenters, but estimators, project managers, safety directors, engineers, and administrators? There are many jobs you can hold in the construction industry, and it's worth learning what the industry can do for you. About 75% of construction companies offer significant medical benefits to their employees, about 6 percent higher than the national average. Many still offer pension plans. Call your local construction association, union or apprenticeship provider to find out what opportunities come with careers in construction.

**Do you have a career pathway in mind?**

**Yes!** **Not yet.**

## Get advice

Now that you've narrowed down your choices, talk through your ideas and discuss them further with family, teachers, school counselors or a career advisor. They may have ideas you never even considered, and can help you formulate a plan to meet your goals.

## Research

Look through what programs in your area are offered for your desired trade, and check the eligibility requirements. If you already meet them, great! If not, prepare yourself to meet the requirements (for example, by obtaining a driver's license or GED.)

## Explore

Ask yourself questions like, "What do I like to do? Do I want to work indoors or outdoors? Do I like working alone or with others?" These questions can help you narrow down your field of interest.

## Apply!

It only takes one phone call to start the process. Contact any of the apprenticeship programs listed in this book, and they will be happy to guide you through the process. When you're ready, the first step is usually an application, followed by an interview, then you're on your way to your new career in the trades. Apprenticeships offer a lot of flexibility, and an apprenticeship provider's website will usually provide you with clear, step-by-step information on how to get involved. Remember to check any apprenticeship start dates to make sure you are going to be available if you are still completing a high school or college degree!

## Try it out

Visit career fairs and expos to learn more about the various trades. See if your school offers a relevant course. Ask a local professional for a job shadowing opportunity. Watch "A Day in the Life" videos on YouTube or TikTok. Once you have a good idea of your ideal pathway, you can pursue an apprenticeship opportunity tailored to your goals.

## Secure the Bag

Just kidding. Kind of. But the truth is, trades workers can earn an excellent living to provide for themselves and their families while enjoying a positive work environment and building something they can be proud of. The median annual salary for Elevator Installers/Repairers is \$88,000 per year. The annual mean wage for a Construction Manager is \$101,000 per year. Construction careers are a great option for people from all walks of life, and can be a stepping stone to real, lifelong success.

