

Frequently Asked Questions About Apprenticeship

Painters and Drywall Finishers

13521 NE Whitaker Way

Portland, OR 97230

Phone: (503) 287-4856

What's an apprenticeship program?	An apprenticeship program is an opportunity to learn a trade. It is also a commitment. It can take three to five years to complete.*
How does your program work?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We help you locate a paid job with a Union contractor. ▪ We require monthly reports of your work hours. ▪ We require attendance at classes, which are on your own time during the school year. Classes are held evenings and sometimes on Saturdays.
When do classes start? How much do they cost?	Classes begin after you are sent to work. There is no charge for classes.
How much will I make?	Apprentices start at a specified percentage of journeyman wages and work their way up during their apprenticeship. Wages are negotiated annually with the Unions. See Public Notice for details.*
Is it hard to get into the program?	No. You must meet minimum age and educational requirements.* To succeed in the program you need to attend classes regularly, submit Monthly Progress Records on time, and prove that you are a good worker.
What else?	You should have a valid driver's license and reliable transportation. You should be physically fit.
When can I apply?	We take applications: Every Tuesday (January through September) 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Can you mail me an application?	No. Applications must be completed in person.
What should I bring?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Photo ID ▪ Proof of High School diploma or GED (translated into English if necessary)
When will I know if I've been accepted?	We will mail you a letter soon after the end of the month. If you are not accepted, we will tell you why. If you are accepted, we will give you the date of the next Orientation session and personal interview. You will have three opportunities to attend.
What do I do next?	You must attend an Orientation here at the Regional Training Center. Allow about an hour. After the Orientation, you will attend an interview after which your name will be added to the Pool of Eligibles list. The more points you score on your interview, the higher your name will be on the waiting list for jobs.*
When will I go to work?	Once your name is on the Pool, you will be dispatched to a job as soon as jobs become available. This varies with economic conditions and the time of year. We can't guarantee how soon you will go to work, but most opportunities will come in the summer months.
Will I join the Union?	Yes. Soon after you are dispatched for your first job, you need to join the Union. Initiation fee is currently \$100.
What if I'm laid off?	Construction work may involve seasonal lay-offs. If this happens, contact your local Union. They maintain an out-of-work list and will contact you when another job becomes available.

You are an excellent apprentice candidate if you can meet these guidelines:

- ✓ **Good work ethic.** Shows up every day, on time, for work and school (no excuses). Always has back-up daycare and transportation plans. Works hard at a steady pace.
- ✓ **Positive attitude.**
 - Listens and learns on the job and in school.
 - Works with others as a team to build the project. (Whether you like someone or not, you need to be able to work with everyone on the crew.)
 - Follows directions of crew leaders regardless of the manner in which they are given. (Directions are often given quickly and may sound angry because the immediacy of the job situation demands it. This is not the time for sensitive feelings.)
- ✓ **Aptitude for the trade/occupation and some work history (paid or unpaid).**
 - Has some experience doing construction, production, or other comparable work or transferable skills.
 - Has proven potential to be good worker. Any continuous employment or training with a good attendance record can indicate this, even if not related to the trade/occupation.
- ✓ **Necessary physical condition.** Some apprenticeships require both physical strength and endurance. In those that do, apprentices must be able to work in a physically demanding environment for extended periods of time in all weather conditions. Can work at heights and in enclosed areas. Is very **safety conscious** in all work.
- ✓ **Drug free** and can pass **drug/alcohol tests** that are given randomly to workers.
- ✓ **Valid state driver's license** and good driving record. Has reliable **transportation**, preferably owns a car. (Companies may send you to another job in the middle of the day and you need to be able to get there. The contractor may need you to drive a company truck.) Also is willing to drive to where the work is, which may be some distance and may not be on a bus line.
- ✓ Good **comprehension** of the English language. This includes both verbal and written comprehension for successful learning on the job and in school.
- ✓ **Education** required of the trade – usually GED or high school diploma.
- ✓ Good basic **math skills**. Some trades require geometry or algebra. Some apprenticeships require accurate reading of a tape measure.
- ✓ Good basic **knowledge** of hand and power tools and how to use them safely if going into a trades-related apprenticeship.
- ✓ **Stable living situation** and a **phone**. This means managing personal issues such as credit or relationships so they do not interfere with work or school performance. It also means resolving undependable transportation or childcare issues.
- ✓ **Meets minimum requirements** for chosen trade.

Are You Apprentice- Ready?