

## Skilled Trades Information

### What are skilled trades?

- Skilled trades are careers that require a specific knowledge, ability, and training. These skills can be attained through college, technical school, or specialized training programs. Skilled trades occupations provide an alternative to jobs that require 4+ years of college education.
- Some Examples include cosmetologist, automotive technician, carpenter, construction worker, plumber/pipe layer, cook/chef/baker, landscape architect, electrician, painter, millwright etc.

### What are apprenticeships?

- An apprenticeship is a paid period of training that allows you to learn a certain set of skills. Someone who is new to the field (an apprentice) learns the skills needed for a job by a master craftsman who is an expert in their field. An apprenticeship requires at least 2,000 hours of on-the-job training and course work and usually takes between 3 and 4 years to complete.
- Apprenticeship programs offer work and training possibilities in the skilled trades.

### What are the benefits of going these routes?

- Jobs are in high demand.
- Earn money while training.
- Gain improved skills and competencies.
- Earn higher wages as skills increase.
- Can earn as much or more than a 4-year degree.
- Less schooling and debt than a 4-year degree

### How can I find opportunities for skilled trades and apprenticeship programs?

- You must be willing to put in some research time to find these opportunities. Below are some helpful websites to assist you in that process.
  - Search for registered apprenticeship opportunities in Michigan: <https://miapprenticeship.org/>
  - Find schools and training programs for skilled trades: <https://www.going-pro.com/>
  - Access resources for apprenticeships and education/training for skilled trades: <https://www.michigan.gov/wda/0,5303,7-304-64531---,00.html>
  - Learn about skilled trades jobs and search for open positions in Michigan: <https://www.mitalent.org/skilled-trades>

The following community colleges have skilled trade programs.

Macomb Community College – (586) 349-8900

Oakland County Community College – (248) 232-4051

Saint Clair County Community College – (810) 989-5739

You may also contact Local Unions for specific trade jobs.