

# Registered Apprenticeship

## Frequently Asked Questions for Job Seekers

Learn more about Registered Apprenticeship through these frequently asked questions.



ApprenticeshipUSA

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### What is a Registered Apprenticeship?

A Registered Apprenticeship allows you to learn on the job while earning a paycheck. A Registered Apprenticeship meets national standards set by the U.S. Department of Labor.

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### Is a Registered Apprenticeship a job?

Yes. You work, learn skills and earn a paycheck from day one. As your skills increase, so does your paycheck.

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### How much money can I make?

The amount of money you can make depends on the type of Registered Apprenticeship you choose. The average wage for someone who completes a Registered Apprenticeship in Iowa is approximately \$60,820 a year.

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### Do I have to join a union to be in a Registered Apprenticeship?

No. A Registered Apprenticeship includes both union and non-union programs. In Iowa, 48 percent of Registered Apprentices were non-union in Federal FY 2016.

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### How will I learn in a Registered Apprenticeship?

In a Registered Apprenticeship, you learn through both on-the-job training and classroom instruction. The classroom instruction can occur at the work site, at a community or technical college, and/or on-line.

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### What types of careers are available through a Registered Apprenticeship?

When most people hear "apprenticeship", they think of construction jobs such as carpenter, electrician, plumber, or heating/cooling. Although these still are options for a Registered Apprenticeship, there are many other career opportunities in areas such as information technology, health care, transportation, advanced manufacturing, and food and beverage preparation.

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### Who can participate in a Registered Apprenticeship?

A Registered Apprenticeship is an appropriate option for all job seekers including women, minorities, youth, people with disabilities and veterans.

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## Who pays for the cost of the classroom instruction?

Typically, the employer or Registered Apprenticeship sponsor pays for the cost of any instruction. That means you do not have to take out loans to pay for your education and you're earning a paycheck as you learn. It truly is a win-win solution for a great career.

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## How long does it take to go through a Registered Apprenticeship?

The program length varies based on the career you are pursuing and the type of program. Registered Apprenticeship Programs range from one to five years with most programs lasting four years. Each year of the Registered Apprenticeship involves 2,000 hours of on-the-job training and at least 144 hours of related classroom instruction.

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## Will I earn college credit while participating in a Registered Apprenticeship?

It depends on the program. Registered Apprenticeship sponsors often work directly with higher education organizations where you would earn college credit for apprenticeship classes. Learn more about the Registered Apprenticeship College Consortium at: [www.doleta.gov/oa/racc.cfm](http://www.doleta.gov/oa/racc.cfm).

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## Do I receive anything after completing a Registered Apprenticeship?

In addition to a great job and ongoing paycheck, you earn a nationally recognized credential from the Department of Labor.

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## Why do employers invest in a Registered Apprenticeship?

Many companies are struggling to find workers with the needed skills. A Registered Apprenticeship gives an employer an immediate workforce from day one. Registered Apprentices are being trained on-the-job which immediately helps the employer. Employers have found Registered Apprenticeship Programs are an effective way to build a highly skilled, loyal workforce.

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## Why should I consider a Registered Apprenticeship?

From the first day of work, Registered Apprentices receive a paycheck that is guaranteed to increase as training progresses. Registered Apprentices also complete a combination of job-related instruction and hands-on training at the job site leading to a nationally-recognized, portable credential.

Other benefits include:

- **Hands-on career training:** Registered Apprentices receive practical on-the-job training in a wide variety of occupations and industries.
  - **An education:** Registered Apprentices receive hands-on training to improve skills and competencies as well as the potential to earn college credit toward an associate's or bachelor's degree.
  - **A career:** Once the Registered Apprenticeship is complete, workers are on their way to a successful long-term career with a competitive salary and little or no educational debt.
  - **National credential:** When a Registered Apprentice graduates from a career training program, he or she earns a certified portable credential accepted by industries and employers across the U.S.
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## What if I'm not ready for a Registered Apprenticeship?

Some companies offer a Quality Pre-Apprenticeship, which is designed to prepare individuals to enter and succeed in a Registered Apprenticeship. A Quality Pre-Apprenticeship may involve an approved training curriculum, educational and pre-vocational services, and hands-on training in a simulated lab experience or through volunteer opportunities as well as help in applying to Registered Apprenticeship Programs.

## Next Steps

Visit [iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov](http://iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov) or call 800-562-4692 to find an IowaWORKS center near you.