

Fact Sheet.

High Quality Preapprentice Program

Preapprenticeship is a pathway to entry into a Registered Apprenticeship training program, designed to lead to a quality career in a skilled trade. The Labor Center's high quality preapprenticeship program:

- Accepts applications from any lowan seeking to qualify for a Registered Apprenticeship.
- Actively recruits women, people of color, veterans, people with disabilities, and other groups who are underrepresented in skilled trades.
- Includes approved curriculum and meets standards set by the US Department of Labor.
- Works in partnership with Registered Apprenticeship programs in construction trades and advanced manufacturing located across Iowa.
- Helps prepare lowans to succeed in Registered Apprenticeship by offering orientation, consultation, direct connections to training, apprenticeship readiness courses, and additional support that continues into the Registered Apprenticeship program.

Apprenticeship Readiness Courses: Overview

Class format	5 weeks of classroom instruction and training; other formats being developed for high school students and other groups
Session times	Tuesday & Thursday, 5-9 pm AND 8:30 am - 4:30 pm on Saturday
Start /end dates and location	For the upcoming session (November 9-December 18), Tuesday and Thursday classes will be held online (via Zoom), the Saturday classes will be held in person in Coralville (BioVentures Center, 2500 Crosspark Road).
Instructors	University of Iowa Labor Center labor educators, Iowa registered apprenticeship training coordinators, certified OSHA, CPR, and First Aid instructors, and social service agency staff
Topics and activities covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry and labor awareness • Overview of skilled trades, training programs, and career options • Construction math • First aid, CPR, and OSHA 10-hour safety certification • Introduction to tools, materials, and blueprint reading • Financial literacy and time management • Diversity in the construction industry • Combating harassment on job sites • Visits to Iowa Registered Apprenticeship training facilities • Communication and interviewing skills
Cost	FREE to qualified lowans selected by application
Class size	Up to 30 spaces will be filled by application for each session
Application process	Request application form from labor-center@uiowa.edu , OR access online application at https://forms.gle/9xzHftUVh4f82NGw5 , OR download pdf from https://laborcenter.uiowa.edu/pre-apprenticeship-program

Apprenticeship Readiness Course: Frequently Asked Questions

What kinds of job opportunities will be open to people in this course?

The goal of the course is to equip participants to apply and gain entry to a Registered Apprenticeship training program. The courses will expose participants to over a dozen different skilled trades (e.g., boilermakers, roofers, plasterers and cement masons, laborers, electricians, carpenters, iron workers, operating engineers, insulators, painters, sheet metal workers, plumbers and pipefitters, and bricklayers), and will make every effort to connect those who develop interest in a particular trade directly to training coordinators of Iowa Registered Apprenticeship programs in that trade. Preapprentice programs cannot guarantee entry into a Registered Apprenticeship but can greatly improve participants' chances of qualifying for entry and succeeding after being accepted.

What is a Registered Apprenticeship training program?

A Registered Apprenticeship is a proven model of occupation-specific training validated by the US Department of Labor. A Registered Apprenticeship is typically a one to five-year program (depending on the trade) that provides *paid* on-the-job training and instruction, resulting in an industry-recognized credential that is valid nationwide. Apprentices in a registered program begin earning a paycheck on day one, and typically earn scheduled raises in pay and benefits as they advance through the program.

Who should apply? What populations are targets for this program?

Any Iowan actively seeking a pathway to a career in a skilled trade should apply. One goal of the program is to boost efforts to diversify skilled trades in Iowa, and so our program actively recruits participants from groups that are underrepresented in Registered Apprenticeship training programs, including youth (ages 16-24), women, people of color, veterans, and people with disabilities.

What qualifications do applicants need to have?

Ideally applicants will have:

- high school diploma or equivalent. This credential is required by most Registered Apprenticeship programs. Preapprentices can still be in high school but should be aware that they may not be able to apply for their chosen apprenticeship program until they have received their diploma.
- math and reading proficiency at levels required to pass the National Career Readiness test and other entry tests required to qualify for Registered Apprenticeship programs. Math review, practice, and test preparation are included in the course, but applicants will need to arrive with basic math skills and ideally will have taken algebra at some time in the past.
- driver's license and/or reliable transportation to course sessions (or ability to obtain license in future, since it is required for entry into most Registered Apprenticeship programs).
- ability and willingness to do physical work.

What other commitments are required?

Accepted applicants will be asked to commit to attending all course sessions (see schedule above), complying with basic conduct policies including refraining from use of illegal substances, and remaining in contact with program staff for follow up activities after completing the course.

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