

# EDUCATION

## *Oakland County Apprenticeships*



Professional apprenticeships develop the next generation of skilled workers for Oakland County, Michigan, and the United States. An apprenticeship combines on the job training with classroom instruction to teach workers a highly skilled profession.

- ◆ Apprenticeships in more than 50 different occupations are available throughout Oakland County and Southeast Michigan, including automotive and industrial skilled technicians, as well as continually emerging sectors such as health care and social services.
- ◆ Within Oakland County there are thirty-eight different professional apprenticeships at thirteen different vocational locations, including Oakland Community College.
- ◆ Apprenticeships are generally open to anyone, but many require the candidate to be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or GED. Good math, reading and science skills are essential as some apprenticeships have minimum requirements for math and/or science. The best way to acquire these critical skills is to take math and science every year during high school.
- ◆ Typically, apprenticeships are one to five years in length. Most apprenticeships last four years and include 8,000 hours of supervised work and 576 hours of classroom training.
- ◆ Because an individual must be a full-time employee of the company to which they are apprenticed, they are paid on a scale beginning around 40-50% of the typical full pay. Wages increase as the apprentice completes training and gains experience.
- ◆ The Certificate of Completion from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship is recognized throughout the United States. If the apprenticeship is sponsored by a labor union, upon completion the apprentice will also receive a journeyperson's card.
- ◆ If classroom instruction is taken at a community college, the apprentice will receive a certificate and may have the opportunity to apply the credits towards an associate's degree.

For more information, go to [www.oakgov.com/exec/initiatives/apprenticeships.html](http://www.oakgov.com/exec/initiatives/apprenticeships.html)

Source: Oakland County Workforce Development 2009 Edition of "Apprenticeships in Oakland County and Southeast Michigan"  
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