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# Apprenticeships and Skilled Trades Pathway

— Next Steps After Graduation —

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# What are the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeships?

## What is a skilled trade?

Career path that requires hands-on work and specialty knowledge.

## Benefits of a career in the skilled trades include:

- in-demand jobs and great earning potential
- using cutting-edge technology
- being paid while you learn on-the-job
- many paths to advance
- transferable skills

When people think about the skilled trades, several immediately probably spring to mind such as; electrician, plumber, welder or carpenter, for example. But opportunities in the skilled trades are much more extensive totalling [144 different professions](#). From hairstylist to cook, painter to landscaper, automotive service technician to crane operator – and so many more.

Please see this [List of Trades in Ontario](#) to learn more.

# What are the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeships?

To become a skilled tradesperson you must first become an **apprentice**.

**Apprenticeship** is an agreement between an individual (apprentice) who wants to learn a trade and an employer who is an experienced worker.

- It is a way to learn job skills while you work and get paid.
- Earn while you learn! Apprenticeship combines classroom study with on-the-job experience and training that lets you earn a living while you learn a skilled trade.
- An apprenticeship program leads to professional certification as a journeyman.
- Check out [skilled trades by sector](#).

# Getting Started in the Trades

## High School:

Investigate Technology courses and programs to find an area that interests you. St. FX offers courses in: Construction, Technological Design, Hospitality and Tourism, Communications Technology, Manufacturing Engineering, Hairstyling and Aesthetics, Transportation Technology and many more in the dual credit program.

Co-operative education is available to students in Gr. 10-12 and can provide valuable on the job experiences for your future apprenticeship in addition to earning credits.

Talk to your Guidance Counsellor or Co-op Teacher about the [OYAP Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program](#).

Also consider the [Algonquin Dual Credit Program](#).

Consider the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) in Transportation, Construction or the Justice, Community Safety and Emergency Services at St. FX, or one of our school board's other SHSM programs listed [here](#).

# Getting Started in the Trades

## After High School:

### Go Directly Into the Trades

To become a skilled trades person you must first become an **apprentice**.

Here are some helpful links to start the process of becoming an apprentice:

[ontario.ca/page/apprenticeship-ontario](https://www.ontario.ca/page/apprenticeship-ontario)

[ontario.ca/page/skilled-trades](https://www.ontario.ca/page/skilled-trades)

[Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development](https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-of-labour-training-and-skills-development)

[careersintrades.ca/](https://careersintrades.ca/)

# Getting Started in the Trades

## After High School:

### Post Secondary Training First

Have an interest in the trades but want to gain more knowledge and experience first?

Try a college program in a skilled trade or a pre-trades program. Here is a great resource for Ontario college programs in the trades:

[ontariocolleges.ca/en/apply/skilled-trades](https://ontariocolleges.ca/en/apply/skilled-trades)

Here are some examples of skilled trades related programs at Algonquin College:

[Hospitality, Tourism and Wellness](#)

[Pre-Trades](#)

[Skilled Trades Programs](#)

[Transportation and Automotive](#)

# Once You Have Started an Apprenticeship:

## In School Training Portion

For most trades, to complete an apprenticeship, you will likely need to **complete an in-class portion** of your training. **You will not be able to register for this until you have been accepted as an apprentice** and started your training.

Below is the link to the Apprenticeship training programs offered at Algonquin College as an example:

[algonquincollege.com/ro/plan-getting-accepted-into-college/apprenticeships/](http://algonquincollege.com/ro/plan-getting-accepted-into-college/apprenticeships/)

Once you have completed your apprenticeship, many trades require a provincial **Certificate of Qualification** exam.

Many trades also offer a **Red Seal** exam which allows you to work as a tradesperson across Canada.

For more information visit: [ontario.ca/page/finish-apprenticeship](http://ontario.ca/page/finish-apprenticeship)