

Postsecondary Training Options: Registered Apprenticeships

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry describes the Virginia Registered Apprenticeship program as “an employment training model that produces highly skilled workers to meet the demands of employers competing in a global economy, through a combination of on-the-job training and related technical instruction. It is a “win-win” approach to workforce development for apprentices (employees) throughout the Commonwealth.” Apprenticeships offer people a way to earn money while they learn the skills needed to be successful in their career of choice.

General Entry Requirements

Age: Minimum age requirements for Registered Apprenticeships vary from 16 to 18 depending on the occupation.

Physical requirements: General good health. Some occupations may require specific physical abilities.

Educational requirement: Education requirements for Registered Apprenticeships vary by occupation, but most require a high school diploma or GED.

Typical Duration

Apprenticeship terms vary based on the occupation, but the average length is 4 years.

On-the-job Training: The on-the-job minimum duration is 2000 hours of supervised training.

Related Technical Instruction (RTI): One of the components of a Registered Apprenticeship is RTI. Over the course of an apprenticeship, an employee must receive at least 144 hours of RTI. RTI is occupation specific and may be completed through:

- Career and Technical Education
- Vocational or technical centers
- Four-year colleges or universities
- Community colleges
- Online or correspondent coursework
- Sponsor-delivered
- Customized/specialized training – as in immersion training such as Police Academies, OSHA Training Institute, or Northwest Lineman College

Career Cluster Connection

There are apprenticeship opportunities in each of the 17 career clusters. These are some of the most common occupations in Virginia:

Electrician	Line Erector	IT/Cybersecurity
Maintenance Mechanic	Barber	Hospitality
Cosmetologist	Shipfitter	Water treatment
Plumber	Crane Operator	Early childhood education
Welder	Heavy Equipment Operator	Investigation
Dispensing Optician	Highway Inspector	

Learn More

Learn more [Registered Apprenticeships](https://doli.virginia.gov/apprenticeship) (doli.virginia.gov/apprenticeship) and about [Youth Registered Apprenticeships](https://doli.virginia.gov/apprenticeship/youth-apprenticeship) (doli.virginia.gov/apprenticeship/youth-apprenticeship)

Check out the [Apprenticeship Works for You: A Guide for Individuals Exploring Inclusive Career Paths](https://dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/odep/categories/youth/apprenticeship/apprenticeship_guide_for_individuals.pdf) (dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/odep/categories/youth/apprenticeship/apprenticeship_guide_for_individuals.pdf)

Review specific jobs, work environments, and additional jobs outlooks through the US Bureau of Labor Statistics [Occupational Outlook Handbook](https://www.bls.gov/ooh) (www.bls.gov/ooh)

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