**Skilled Trades/Apprenticeships**

**What are skilled trades?**

Skilled trades are careers that require a specific knowledge, ability, and training. These skills can be attained through college, technical school, or specialized training programs. Skilled trades occupations provide an alternate to jobs that require 4 years of college education. Here are some examples of skilled trades professions:

*skin care specialist*

*barber/hairstylist*

*cosmetologist*

*automotive technician*

*carpenter*

*construction worker*

*heavy equipment operator*

*plumber/pipe layer*

*cook/chef/baker*

*building contractor*

*landscape architect*

*electrician*

*painter*

*millwright*

**What are apprenticeships?**

An apprenticeship is a paid period of training that allows you to learn a certain set of skills. Someone who is new to the field (an apprentice) learns the skills needed for a job by a master craftsman who is an expert in their field. An apprenticeship requires at least 2,000 hours of on the job training and course work and usually takes between 3 and 4 years to complete.

**What are the benefits of going these routes?**

* jobs are in high-demand
* earn money while training
* gain improved skills and competencies
* earn higher wages as skills increase
* less schooling/debt than a 4-year degree

**How can I find opportunities for skilled trades and apprenticeship programs?**

You must be willing to put in some research time to find these opportunities. Below are some helpful websites to assist you in that process.

Find union opportunities for registered apprenticeships by contacting unions directly:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/554113bae4b0a9d24247c1eb/t/55dccdf3e4b0f3cab299dc44/1440534003815/MUST+Careers+Tri-Fold+c.pdf>

Search for registered apprenticeship opportunities in Michigan: <https://miapprenticeship.org/>

Find schools and training programs for skilled trades: <https://www.going-pro.com/>

Access resources for apprenticeships and education/training for skilled trades: <https://www.michigan.gov/wda/0,5303,7-304-64531---,00.html>

Find opportunities for training related to construction occupations: <https://www.mustcareers.org/>

Learn about skilled trades jobs and search for open positions in Michigan: <https://www.mitalent.org/skilled-trades>

Get more information about how apprenticeship programs are run: <https://www.mitalent.org/apprenticeships>

Get information about the Macomb Community College MAP+ Industrial Readiness Certification Program. This is a great place to start if you do not have career in mind yet. <https://www.macomb.edu/resources/grants/attachments/michigan-apprenticeship-program-plus-certificate.pdf>

Sources:

<https://www.jcisd.org/domain/307>

<https://www.allaboutcareers.com/careers-advice/apprenticeships/what-is-an-apprenticeship>