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Did you know that the largest employer in the United States is the construction industry? And it's not the old industry you might be thinking of. There are new technologies, new techniques, and a kind of teamwork you don't find in many other industries.

Millions of craft workers are secure in their jobs and making a good living because they have a skill that is needed every day in the construction industry.

These men and women are advancing in their careers because they have hands-on experience in a skilled trade. They work as part of a team, building homes, schools, offices, bridges, and every type of public and private structure. They can move up to jobs as supervisors, engineers, and architects.

At ABC, we understand the importance of building a future. We want to help you plan and realize your dreams. Like putting up a building, your future needs a blueprint. ABC offers you the tools to build a career in the construction industry. Apprenticeship is a proven way to make it to the top.

### State Apprenticeship Councils

The Apprenticeship Councils and the Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training register programs that meet federal and state standards, issues Certificates of Completion to apprentices, encourages development of new programs through marketing and technical assistance, protects the safety and welfare of apprentices and assures that all programs provide high quality to their apprentices.

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In the US 34,500 (1996) program sponsors offered registered apprenticeship training to approximately 367,700 apprentices. The programs serve a diverse population including minorities, women, youth and dislocated workers. At least two-thirds of all apprenticeship training positions were in the construction and manufacturing industries. Experts agree, however that apprenticeship has the potential to benefit numerous other industries, as well. Thus, the possibilities for expanding apprenticeship to meet the needs of many more companies and citizens in search of high quality training opportunities are virtually unlimited.

The National Apprenticeship Act of 1937 authorizes the federal government in cooperation with the states to oversee the nation's apprenticeship system. The US Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training in conjunction with State Apprenticeship Agencies is responsible for registering apprenticeship programs that meet federal and state standards issuing certificates of completion to apprentices, encouraging the development of new programs through marketing and technical assistance, protecting the safety and welfare of apprentices and ensuring that all programs provide high quality training.

### THE OTHER 4-YEAR DEGREE

Apprenticeship training typically includes:

- Apprentice-level pay from the employer,
- Planned, on-the-job training under proper supervision,
- Related technical, classroom instruction and Training that last a specified length of time.

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# The OTHER 4-Year Degree

**Earn While You Learn !!  
With  
Apprenticeship Training**



**Education that works  
for you  
and your employer**

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## Apprenticeship

An idea whose time never went away. It began in the Middle Ages as a way for skilled craftsmen to control who entered and was given training for their trades.

Guilds were groups of such craftsmen who banded together to ensure proper training of its practitioners and guarantee good wages for those who earned their skills.



This concept of training by apprenticeship is alive and well!

The Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training and the MD, PA, and WV Apprenticeship Councils oversee programs offering such training and accreditation. Current programs allow you to earn wages while learning the proficiency in well paying occupations.

It's the other four-year degree program and the only one which pays the student!

Apprentices are paid wages while participating employers teach them state-of-the-art, real-life work skills to enhance career success beyond the time required to complete an apprenticeship.



## Apprenticeship Program Sponsors

Apprenticeship programs are sponsored by employers, employer associations, or jointly by management and labor. An employer/employee relationship must exist to establish an apprenticeship program. Since every registered apprenticeship program is operated by private industry, it is private industry that usually pays all the training cost as well as progressively increasing wages to their apprentices. The value of the education is equal to or even greater than the cost of a college degree!



## Length of Apprenticeship

Length of training is set by the needs of the occupation within the industry. For an electrician, for example, minimum length is set at 2,000 hours of practicum and a minimum of 144 hours of related instruction per year.



Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.  
Barr Construction Institute  
530 N. Locust Street  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
301-739-1190 or 301-416-7247

## Apprenticeship Information

To explore the option of an apprenticeship program or if you're an employer considering ways to enhance your workforce, contact Associated Builders and Contractors, The Barr Construction Institute. Our apprenticeship coordinator can help you decide if this dynamic program will work for you. Call Today (301-739-1190 or 301-416-7247) or email [ABCCVC@myactv.net](mailto:ABCCVC@myactv.net)

## Why Apprenticeship?

Research shows that apprenticeship training gives construction workers a considerable advantage over those trained by informal means.

In general, apprenticeship graduates:

- Are more educated workers
- Work more safely than others
- Are more productive, better skilled
- Work more steadily
- Learn their craft faster
- Are more likely to become supervisors, earn higher salaries and experience less unemployment



## Apprenticeship Program Content

Content of apprenticeship programs are market driven. They are determined by industry needs and are designed to produce workers with skills that are in high demand.