

WORK CENTRAL AB

Apprenticeships

Your Path Into a Paid, Hands-On Trade Career

A Career Resource from Work Central AB

Getting Started With an Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships combine paid, on-the-job training with technical classroom instruction, offering a practical path into a skilled trade without the upfront cost of a full-time diploma program. Alberta has a well-established apprenticeship system, and Central Alberta's construction, manufacturing, and energy sectors offer strong demand for tradespeople.

1. How Alberta Apprenticeships Work

- Apprenticeships are administered through Alberta's apprenticeship and industry training system, covering more than 50 designated trades.
- Most apprenticeships take 3-4 years and combine on-the-job hours with technical training terms, usually 6-8 weeks per year.
- Apprentices earn wages throughout their training, with pay increasing as they progress through each period.
- Upon completion, apprentices write a certification exam to become a journeyperson in their trade.

2. Finding an Employer Sponsor

To register as an apprentice, you generally need an employer willing to sponsor and train you. Ways to find one:

- Apply directly to local trades employers - construction companies, mechanical contractors, manufacturers - and ask about apprenticeship openings.
- Attend trade-focused job fairs and career events across the region.
- Reach out to local union halls or trade associations, which often help connect apprentices with employers.
- Check the Work Central AB job board for apprenticeship postings.

3. Popular Trades in Central Alberta

In-Demand Trades Regionally

Electrician • Plumber • Welder • Heavy Equipment Technician • Carpenter • Automotive Service Technician • HVAC Technician • Agricultural Equipment Technician

4. Funding and Support

- Employment Insurance benefits are often available during technical training terms.
- Grants and tax credits are available for apprentices at various stages of training - research current programs before starting.
- Red Deer Polytechnic and other regional institutions deliver technical training for many designated trades.

Apprenticeship Checklist

- ✓ Researched which trade fits your interests and goals
- ✓ Identified potential employer sponsors in the region
- ✓ Contacted local union halls or trade associations
- ✓ Reviewed funding and EI support available during technical terms
- ✓ Registered with Alberta's apprenticeship system once a sponsor is confirmed

Keep Your Job Search Moving With Work Central AB

See our Skilled Trades Careers guide for more on choosing the right trade, and explore apprenticeship postings at workcentralab.ca/jobs.