General Information Sheet on Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship is a highly structured training system in which the apprentice works full-time (40 hours per week) during the day for a sponsoring employer, learning the skills of the trade (through On-the-Job Training with a journeyworker/mentor). Apprentices earn a progressive wage - as their skills increase, their wages increase (usually every 6 months). The beginning wage rate is at least 35% of the journeyperson's hourly rate, and the ending wage is no less than 75% of the journeyworker's hourly wage rate. *In no event shall the apprentice wage rate be less than the minimum wage prescribed by the Fair Labor Standards Act, collective bargaining agreements or by Florida Statutes, whichever is higher*. There are both union (joint) and non-union (non-joint) programs, and group and non-group programs. Each is required to abide by State and Federal Apprenticeship Rules and Regulations.

A minimum of 144 hours of related instruction for each year of apprenticeship is required. Related instruction is organized related supplemental instruction in technical subjects related to the occupation. Most programs utilize local technical schools or community colleges for the related classroom instruction. Programs may also provide their own related instruction to its apprentice. Depending on the trade, the program can last one to five years, with the average at four years. *There are no tuition fees for registered apprentices for related instruction provided through Local Education Agencies (LEA) as stipulated in Florida Statute 1009.25*. The only costs would be tools, books, and materials needed for the trade. This program does not supply vouchers or loans for those seeking to participate in the apprenticeship program, nor would they provide relocation expenses. **Applicants seeking entrance into a registered apprenticeship program must apply to the registered program sponsor**. For a complete list of registered apprenticeship occupations in Florida, visit our website at http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/apprenticeship. From there, click on *contacts*, then, search by "*Registered Apprenticeship Occupation*".

Each registered apprenticeship program operates independently and establishes its application process and minimum qualifications. The required minimum qualifications for persons entering an apprenticeship are an eligible starting age of not less than sixteen years. Most programs' minimum qualifications require the following of all applicants – being at least 18 years of age, possess a High School Diploma or G.E.D., possess a valid drivers' license and be physically able to perform the work of the trade. Some programs require more, some less.

Upon completion of the program an apprentice is considered a journeyworker. They will receive a State Completion Certificate, which is recognized nationally and internationally.

Apprenticeship is a commitment of a few years; not suitable for someone who cannot commit to a long-term training program. Absence from work and related instruction classes is not tolerated and can lead to termination from the program or at the least, delay your pay raises and completion date.

Best Wishes,

Florida Department of Education
Division of Career and Adult Education
Apprenticeship Section