

Apprenticeship and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program

Introduction

Much has been published about the need to revitalize the Skilled Trades and the Apprenticeship Program in Ontario. Many experts agree that industry is facing shortages of skilled workers, yet many parents and youth know little about the post-secondary option of Apprenticeship training.

Apprenticeship is regulated by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU), where “Training” means Apprenticeship. Most teachers, parents and students are aware of post-secondary opportunities and admission requirements for College and University programs. It is best to think of Apprenticeship as a method of post-secondary education which uses on-the-job training as its main delivery vehicle. If a student decides to pursue an Apprenticeship and become a skilled tradesperson, there can be a number of possible paths. Admission into post-secondary Apprenticeship training is dependant upon an employer/sponsor and therefore has varied points of entry. The student will need an employer/sponsor to make a commitment to training, and with little or no experience, she/he may find it difficult to begin. Many people become apprentices by chance as opposed to choice!



The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) allows students the opportunity to experience an apprenticeship occupation while they are still in secondary school. This gives the student the ability to make an informed decision about a potential career in the skilled trades. OYAP students are subject to all of the rules and requirements of Cooperative Education; in fact, they are cooperative education students. The difference is that they can begin working on apprenticeship requirements prior to attaining their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

