



Skilled Trades

WHAT THEY ARE, WHAT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES THEY OFFER,
HOW TO PICK A PATH, WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO GET STARTED

Presented by:
Spartan College

What is a Skilled Trade ?

- ▶ A skilled trade is a job that requires work experience, on the job training, certifications, vocational education, or any combination of the traits listed
- ▶ They generally do not require Bachelors Degrees
- ▶ They usually require individuals to obtain Certifications for their specific industry or job
- ▶ Skilled trades are not general labor jobs
- ▶ General labor jobs are generally easy to obtain and become proficient in - (Ex: Ditch Digger)
- ▶ *Skilled trades positions take time and investment from workers to obtain and learn -(Ex: Electrician)*

Some Examples of Skilled Trades

- Airframe and Powerplant Mechanics
- Aviation Electronic Technicians
- HVAC Technicians
- Manufacturing Technicians
- Diesel Mechanics
- Certified Automotive Technicians
- Plumbers
- Electricians
- Certified Contractors
- Nurses
- Paralegals
- Pipe Fitters
- Concrete/Masons
- Some Oil and Gas Jobs
- CDL Drivers
- Welders
- Machinists

Why Enter a Skilled Trade?

- ▶ Require less education than traditional career paths
- ▶ Strong wages and benefits
- ▶ Somewhat insulated from economic downturns/recessions
- ▶ Less time at desks, more hands on
- ▶ Less likely to be automated
- ▶ *Lots of Job Opportunities!*

How to Pick a Skilled Trade

- ▶ Understand what you like to do and what your good at.
- ▶ Identify where those categories overlap
- ▶ Look for jobs that require you to do things that fall into those categories
- ▶ Understand what you DON'T want to do. Look for jobs that don't require a lot of things you avoid doing
- ▶ Look for industries that offer long term career growth, and maximizes your strengths
- ▶ Look for opportunities that are relatively stable during economic down turns
- ▶ Research your path. Understand what it takes from an educational, certification, and experience standpoint to be successful
- ▶ *Look for jobs that you have a realistic chance of obtaining*

How to Stand Out in a Skilled Trade

- ▶ Work Hard, Study Hard. Trades take effort to learn and master, and require a commitment to continuous learning throughout your career
- ▶ Be safety and quality focused. Skills trades usually involve work where mistakes can hurt others or cause significant property damage
- ▶ TEAMWORK! (Work well with others) You will interact with Co Workers and Clients everyday, so practice resolving disagreements in constructive ways
- ▶ Think beyond your specific job. Try to understand how your role fits into the larger business and supports broader initiatives
- ▶ *Get your Certifications! (Specifics Certifications vary from industry to industry and job to job)*

How to Enter a Trade

- ▶ Varies depending on what you are trying to do....
- ▶ The more you commit initially, the greater the pay off
- ▶ You may need to become an apprentice, go to school, get certified, or work a certain number of hours in your field of choice
 - ❖ Ex: To become an A&P Mechanic you need to attend an FAA Approved School and complete the necessary Certification Tests
- ▶ *Look for a career path that has a strong ROI (return on investment)*

What Spartan Does

- ▶ Spartan College offers education to prepare students for Skilled Trade Careers in Aviation, Aerospace, and Energy
- ▶ We offer a variety of Associates Degrees and Diploma programs targeted towards Aviation, Quality Control, and Non Destructive Testing
- ▶ We also offer a Bachelors of Science in Technology Management
- ▶ The majority of our programs are targeted for Careers in Aviation, but our NDT Program is an excellent choice as well with diverse career options
- ▶ Be sure to verify the validity of the school/training center

What to Look For....

- ▶ Example: Spartan Support
 - ❖ We have dozens of onsite training aids for students to utilize
 - ❖ We are invested in your career success
 - ❖ We have an actively involved Career Services department
 - ❖ We track our graduation rates and job placement rates
 - ❖ Employers actively recruit from our campuses
- ▶ *Whether or not you chose Spartan, look for schools that have relevant Training Aids, strong Career Services, and Placement Data*

Aviation Careers for the Next 20 years are promising!



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Quick Facts: Aircraft and Avionics Equipment Mechanics and Technicians

- ▶ [2016 Median Pay](#) \$60,270 per year \$28.98 per hour
- ▶ [Number of Jobs, 2016](#) 149,500
- ▶ [Job Outlook, 2016-26](#) 5% (As fast as average)
- ▶ [Employment Change, 2016-26](#) 7,500

Percentile	10%	25%	50% (Median)	75%	90%
Hourly Wage	\$17.29	\$23.09	\$28.93	\$35.46	\$42.25
Annual Wage (2)	\$35,960	\$48,040	\$60,170	\$73,770	\$87,880

- ▶ URL: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/installation-maintenance-and-repair/aircraft-and-avionics-equipment-mechanics-and-technicians.htm>
- ▶ URL: <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes493011.htm>
- ▶ BLS does not capture the amount of workers about to retire
- ▶ *Look up the BLS for your career of choice*

General Career Tips

- Make a strong Resume and LinkedIn profile
- Have other Career professionals edit them for you
- Avoid legal trouble and live a drug/substance free lifestyle
 - ❖ (All Skilled trade jobs are going to Drug test)
- Take Interviews seriously
- Research the company, prepare questions for them, and have all of of your information and documents ready to go BEFORE you interview
- Interview the company as well
- Be professional
 - ❖ Treat others with respect, watch your language, dress appropriately, and clean up your social media



Questions?