Earn while you learn and build a future with us

Trades Training and Program Supports
Okanagan College respectfully acknowledges that our Kelowna campus is located on the unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan.
Trades Training at Okanagan College

- What is a Foundation program?
- How does an apprenticeship work?
- What is dual-credit?
- What does it cost and what supports are there for me? (or the person I support!)
- What is trades training like at OC?
- What construction trades programs are offered at OC?
- How do I start? (or how does anyone start!)
How it works
Choose a training path that works for you!
Youth Pathways

- **OC Trades Kids Programs** – weekend programs – bike repair, intro to trades, auto masters, intro to tools (grades 7-12)
- **OC Trades Camps** – go-karts, longboards, carpenter and metal camps (grades 4-9)
- **OC Trades Sampler** – full or part-time programs available for 10 weeks to a full term, offered at high schools or on OC campuses, for grades 10-12
- **High school shop classes** – usually Carpenter or Automotive, may have Metal shop (may be some options in middle school as well)
- **Youth Work in Trades/Train in Trades** – school district and employer coordinated youth apprenticeship – gain school credits and work-based training hours toward apprenticeship, may include Level 1 apprentice technical training as a dual-credit student
- **OC Trades Foundation** program as a dual-credit student – school district pays tuition, student receives credit for high school and from OC
Construction Foundation Program v. Apprenticeship

Foundation
• Introductory program
• 20-30 weeks in length
• Shop and site safety, industry expectations and trades-specific technical training
• Equivalent to Level 1 apprenticeship technical training
• For students new to the trade and not yet apprenticed

Apprenticeship
• Trades-specific technical training
• 6-10 weeks in length, combined with paid training on the job
• Usually 4 levels over 4-6 years
• For SkilledTradesBC registered apprentices working in the trade and actively employed
• All OC construction trades are Red Seal trades

Both require 70% to pass! Study, practice, study some more.
Foundation Program v. Apprenticeship Costs for Level 1 Technical Training

Foundation
- Tuition and Fees ($4-5K)
- Textbooks ($400-$1100)
- Tools ($400-700)
- Certification/Testing Fees
- Parking
- Accommodation (potentially)
- 6-7 months, full-time school

Apprenticeship
- Tuition and Fees ($1-1.5K)
- Textbooks ($400-$1100)
- Tools ($400-700)
- Certification/Testing Fees
- Parking
- Accommodation (potentially)
- May need vehicle for work
Foundation Program Supports

• Dual-credit students may have their tuition paid by their school district
• Canada and BC Student Loan eligible
• BC Access Grant eligible
• Canada Study Grant for Dependents eligible (if applicable)
• $500,000 in awards available to trades students each year from OC Financial Aid/ donors!
• Some scholarships and bursaries are available from external agencies
• Merit-based scholarship awards (marks, trades engagement, completion) from $1000-$3000
• Financial need-based awards (bursaries) from $1000-$6500
• New: High-school entrance awards of $6500
• New: CHBA Women in Construction award of $2000
Apprentice Supports

• Youth apprentices may have their tuition paid by their school district and receive a completion grant ($1000)
• Eligible for EI while in technical training
• Canada Apprentice Loan eligible (up to $4000/ level)
• May be eligible for WorkBC Apprentice Services supports while in technical training – travel, living support, dependent care, disability-related costs
• Some employers will reimburse tuition or top-up EI
• Some scholarships and bursaries available from OC Financial Aid/ donors or external agencies such as Southern Interior Construction Association (typically $1000, usually first or second year or completion)
• Canada Apprenticeship Incentive and Completion Grants ($2000 x 3)
• BC and Canada Tax credits (for adult apprentices)
• Tools Deduction
Skills Training for Employment Program for Young Adults

Through WorkBC Employment Services this program provides skills training and employment supports for young adults (16–29) who are generally employment ready, but face barriers to employment. Find a program near you!

Some Key Points

- **WorkBC Centre Employment Services** - Programs include skills training for Trades Foundation Programs and employment supports to obtain sustainable employment
- **Employment supports** - Address barriers to participation in skills training and employment. Examples include: interview clothing and transportation supports, childcare and work experience.
- **Eligible Participants** - The program stream is primarily open to unemployed or precariously employed young adults aged 16 to 29 who are motivated to find work and are generally employment ready, but may lack effective job search skills, training and support.
WorkBC Contacts Central Okanagan

- Kelowna – p: **778.738.0225**, e: info-kelowna@workbc.ca, workbccentre-kelowna.ca
- Rutland – p: **778.738.2909**, e: info-rutland@workbc.ca, workbccentre-rutland.ca
- West Kelowna – p: **778.741.0155**, e: info-westkelowna@workbc.ca, workbccentre-westkelowna.ca
Construction Trades Programs at Okanagan College

- Carpenter Foundation and Apprenticeship
- Carpenter-Joiner Foundation (includes cabinetry)
- Electrical Foundation and Apprenticeship
- Plumbing and Piping Trades Foundation (includes Sprinkler Fitter)
  - Plumber Apprenticeship
  - Gasfitter Apprenticeship
- Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Mechanic Foundation and Apprenticeship
- Sheet Metal Foundation and Apprenticeship
Construction Trades Foundation
Intake Locations 2025-2026

**Kelowna**
- Carpenter – Winter 2025 (tbd)
- Carpenter-Joiner – Fall and Winter
- Electrical – Fall (August), Winter
- Plumbing & Piping – Summer (July), Winter
- Sheet Metal – Winter 2025 (tbd)

**Other Campuses**
- Carpenter – Penticton and Salmon Arm, Winter 2025
- Electrical – Penticton and Vernon, Winter 2025
- RACM – Vernon, Winter 2025 (tbd)
- Refrigeration and A/C Mechanic – Penticton, Fall and Winter
Academic Requirements for Construction Trades

English 12 and Math 11 (min 67%) (Physics 11 recommended)
• Electrical

English 10 and Math 11
• Carpenter
• Carpenter-Joiner

English 10 and Math 10 (including Trigonometry)
• Plumbing and Piping Trades
• Refrigeration and A/C Mechanic
• Sheet Metal

All Trades programs require daily attendance due to practical assessments and safety – students may not be able to pass if they miss more than 3 days
Construction Trades Training at Okanagan College

- Each class has up to 16 students
- Lots of individual time with instructor in the shop
- 50-80% theory in classroom, depending on the trade and level
- Both Foundation and Apprenticeship classes run 4 days per week, usually 7:30-3:30
- Trades Success Centre to assist with trades math, study skills, exam prep
- Industry speakers or field trips (in Foundation)
- Trades and general student events such as BBQs, pizza, visits from therapy dogs at exam time, coffee and cookies
- Accessibility Services to support learning accommodations
- Gym access (pass is only $10!)
- Opportunity to play on OC sports teams if recruited – basketball, baseball
OC Trades Students

• Vary in age from still in high school (up to 5 in a Foundation class of 16 or up to 2 in an apprenticeship class) to mature students, with most students in their '20s

• 35% of Trades Sampler students were female in 2022-23 – our highest year yet!

• More than 20% of Trades Foundation students are now female

• 10-12% of Foundation students are Indigenous

• 7% of apprentices attending training at OC are female
OC Trades Foundation
Student Outcomes (2020-22)

• The median age of respondents was 22
• 91% were satisfied with their outcomes
• 95% were working full-time
• Program completers already working as apprentices:
  o 96% for RACM Foundation
  o 86% for Plumbing & Piping Foundation
  o 76% for Electrical Foundation
  o 64% for Carpenter Foundation
• Most construction trades Foundation completers now start at $22-25/hour

We trained 428 Foundation students in 2023-24!
OC Trades Apprentice Outcomes (2020-22)

- The median age of respondents was 28
- 93% were satisfied with their outcomes
- 99% were working full-time
- 91% received their Certificate of Qualification
- The median hourly wage was $30
- Apprentices now earn up to $40 hour by fourth year...
- Gasfitter, RACM and Plumber generally have the highest salaries for construction trades

We trained 1515 apprentices in 2023-24!
Next Steps

• Check out trades careers info at [https://skilledtradesbc.ca/find-your-trade](https://skilledtradesbc.ca/find-your-trade) and [https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers/career-search](https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers/career-search)

• If you are in high school, talk to your Career Coordinator about dual-credit Foundation or Youth Train/ Youth Work in Trades and Youth Trades Sampler Opportunities

• Visit us as a Student for a Day (or a few days) to spend the day in a Foundation program and see what it is like (Chair contacts on the next page) - must be at least 16

• Review supports for your program and make a plan

• Apply to a Foundation program on Education Planner BC at [www.educationplannerbc.ca](http://www.educationplannerbc.ca) ($30 fee) - 9-12 months ahead

• Once you are a registered apprentice with at least 6 months of work-based hours, apply to technical training 9-12 months ahead at [www.okanagan.bc.ca/trades-and-apprenticeship](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/trades-and-apprenticeship) (free)
The tools for your future are here

Okanagan College offers the newest equipment and technologies in state-of-the-art training facilities located in Kelowna, Vernon, Salmon Arm, and Penticton. Students master skills taught by industry leading instructors and gain hands-on experience. Learn in small classes in more than 28 different programs that have provincial, national and international recognition. Whether you are seeking Red Seal certification or one-of-a-kind specialty industry training, education at OC sets you up for a successful career.

Apply now

Already know which program you want to apply for? Skip straight to the application process now!

Entry Level Foundation Program
Apprenticeship Program

Set yourself up for success!
The Trades Success Centre can assist you with preparing for the Trades Entrance Exam (TEA). Whether you have been out-of-school a few years or are looking to change careers, the TEA can help you get started.

Get prepared to fill the TEA by contacting the Trades Success Centre Coordinator, Dwayne Buxton, at buxton@okanagan.bc.ca or 604-796-7650.

Learn more about Success Centres.

Trades Frequently Asked Questions
Click on “Read Trades FAQ” for a list of common questions from trades students to help prepare you for training.

Trades in the news
Events

Okanagan College
Carpenter Apprenticeship

Carpenters build and repair a variety of structures made of wood, wood substitutes and other materials. They assemble and install frames for concrete, wood and metal frame construction and use plans and instruments to prepare for measuring and cutting.

Level 1 - 7 weeks
Level 2 - 7 weeks
Level 3 - 7 weeks
Level 4 - 7 weeks

Tuition and fees: Contact: 250.707.6161 x 2420 for information on tuition and fees.

Admission requirements:
- Admission requirements
- How to order textbooks, supplies and equipment online
- Training schedule

Financial incentives:
- Apprenticeship Incentive Grant Form
- Apprenticeship Completion Grant
- WorkBC and Service Canada support
- Canada Apprentice Loan
- LNG Canada Trades Training Fund
- Tradesperson’s Tools Deduction
- BC Tax Credit
Jill of All Trades™

Jill of All Trades™ is a day long event to inspire young women in Grades 9-12 to pursue education and careers in skilled trades and apprenticeships. Jill of All Trades™ has been a tremendous success internationally. The event includes many hands-on workshops in theotive power, manufacturing, and construction trades sectors. Female mentors lead these workshops to help young women develop a better understanding of the potential of skilled trades careers.

At our first annual Jill of All Trades™ event, Okanagan College will be hosting 120 young women along with mentors and volunteers on May 15 2024 at the Kelowna Campus.

International Women’s Day

March 9th: Okanagan College celebrates International Women’s Day. Happy International Women’s Day! The campaign theme for 2024 is Inspire Inclusion. When we inspire others to understand and value women’s inclusion, we forge better worlds. And when women themselves are inspired to be included, there’s a sense of belonging, relevance, and empowerment. Collectively, let’s forge a more inclusive world for women.

More than 10% of OC’s trades Fundamentals students are female and we are pleased to offer limited priority seats to female applicants to help support diversity in trades, with the goal of growing the number of tradespeople employed in our region and the province.

Okanagan College is proud of the ways we ensure the needs, interests, and aspirations of women and girls are valued and included in trades.

Hands-on Projects in Construction, Motor Vehicle and Manufacturing Trades (including Welding)!

Special Event for Girls, Grades 9-12

Seats for this May 15 event still available!
Contact jillofalltrades@okanagan.bc.ca
OC Trades Contacts

**Sara Cousins**, Manager, Trades Programs – scousins@okanagan.bc.ca
  - Trades advising, policies and process, apprentice admission

**Kelly Brosch**, Dept. Chair, Construction Trades – cbrosch@okanagan.bc.ca
  - Student for a day, detailed program information on Carpenter, Carpenter-Joiner, Electrical

**Bruce Slater**, A/Dept. Chair, Mechanical Building Trades – bslater@okanagan.bc.ca
  - Student for a day, detailed program information on Plumber, RACM, Sheet Metal

Note: Foundation students are admitted through the Registrar's Office, Apprentices are admitted through the Trades Office
RO contact - Admissions@okanagan.bc.ca
Links for Trades Training Funding and Support Services

- https://studentaidbc.ca/
- https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/training/support-skilled-trades-apprentices.html
- https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/training/support-skilled-trades-apprentices/funding-opportunities.html
- https://www.workbc.ca/discover-employment-services/apprentice-services
- https://www.okanagan.bc.ca/financial-aid-and-awards
Okanagan College Financial Aid and Awards

https://www.okanagan.bc.ca/financial-aid-and-awards
Government of Canada: Skilled trades and apprenticeship Training

Supports for skilled trades and apprenticeship - Canada.ca
Student Aid BC

https://studentaidbc.ca/
WorkBC Career Search:

https://www.workbc.ca/plan-career/explore-careers/career-search
WorkBC Employment Services:

https://www.workbc.ca/discover-employment-services/apprentice-services
Questions?