YOUR CAREER IN SHEET METAL

The sheet metal industry needs highly skilled and motivated workers. Through courses offered at state-of-the-art training centers, you can get the high quality education and training designed to put you on the path to a rewarding career. As an apprentice, you participate in both on-the-job training and classroom study, allowing you to gain practical experience while learning the technical aspects of the industry.

It’s time to reconsider the skilled construction trades. In fact, an education as a skilled union craftsperson has never looked more appealing.

Keep reading to learn more or contact your local training center today.

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BEING A SHEET METAL APPRENTICE

When you enter an apprenticeship, you agree to work in an on-the-job training program and attend specialized classes for between four and five years. As an apprentice, you:

- Earn a good salary while learning your trade – a salary that increases as your skills and knowledge increase
- Pay little to no tuition costs or fees
- Receive books and other educational material free of charge
- Learn from instructors who have hands-on experience in the sheet metal industry
- Put everything you learn to work right away—your career begins with your apprenticeship
- Graduate without student loan debt

WHAT IS INDUSTRIAL SHEET METAL WELDING?

Industrial sheet metal workers work on large-scale projects, custom projects or large shop-built modules. In this field, you may make the machines used in automotive assembly or food processing plants. Or you may find yourself working on a specialized installation almost anywhere in the world. The projects you will work on last for years and enhance the quality of life for many people.

Opportunities in this field include:

- AWS-ASME certified industrial welder
- Custom fabricator
- Grinder and finisher
- Plasma cutter operator
- Field installer
- Field foreman
- Shop foreman
- Estimator
- Project manager
- Shop owner

REQUIREMENTS

As with any other field, there are some basic requirements for a career in the sheet metal industry. You’ll need a high school or GED diploma, and in some parts of the U.S. and Canada, you might have to take a written exam and/or complete a personal interview. Other skills needed include:

- Good physical condition
- Above average mechanical and math skills
- Good eye-to-hand coordination
- Understanding of spatial relationships
- Understanding of how patterns are used to create metal forms
- Excellent work and study habits
- Ability to work well in teams
- Solid reasoning skills
- Problem solving capability
- Enjoy working with your hands
- Reliable and responsible