

Visiting an apprenticeship or career training program is one of the most effective ways to determine whether it's right for you.

No matter how perfect a program may seem on paper or online, nothing compares to the impression you get when you're on a site visit experiencing the program first hand. Below is a list of questions to ask and things to observe on a program visit.

Application and Admission to Program

- What is the application/admission process for this program?
- What are the qualifications to get this apprenticeship?
- Are there any tuition or learning costs I have to pay for?
- How many apprentices do you have each year?
- What can I do to prepare for work in this field?

Program Coursework & Experience

- What framework does this apprenticeship follow?
- Is there a rotation program in your apprenticeship or will I be working the same job for the apprenticeship (cross training)?
- How much classroom work vs. hands on experiences is there?
- What hands on experiences will I have?
- What education is offered during the apprenticeship? Formal classroom education?

Post-Program Opportunities

- At the end of the apprenticeship what supports will I have? Will I be guaranteed a job?
- What career advancements does your company offer?
- What national recognitions/qualifications (certifications) will I receive through this apprenticeship?
- At the end of the apprenticeship will there be a pay increase?

Work Culture, Wages & Benefits

- What are the relationships like among colleagues, managers, etc?
- Do you have a mentorship program? If so, what is involved? How often do we meet?
- Do you receive employee perks through the apprenticeship?
- Do you receive paid leave?
- Do you receive student benefits?

Program Visit Checklist

It's a good idea to visit at least two or three career training or apprenticeship programs. While you're there, take a tour, ask questions, and explore both the classroom and field work aspects of the program. Program visits require an appointment so call ahead.

Use this chart to take notes and compare programs. Make a copy of it if you plan to visit more than three programs.

	Program A	Program B	Program C
Name			
Location <i>Positives and Negatives</i>			
Size <i>Positives and Negatives</i>			
Admission Requirements and Deadlines			
Academic <i>Programs That Interest Me</i>			
Academic <i>Positives and Negatives</i>			
Benefits <i>Positives and Negatives</i>			
Work Culture <i>Positives and Negatives</i>			
Comments			