

# **The Sheet Metal Apprenticeship Program**

Updated September 14, 2016

Sheet metal workers fabricate and install metal of varying thicknesses as well as nonmetallic, construction materials. They work from blueprints and sketches which set out the dimensions, locations, assembly procedures, and installation sequences that they must follow to detail, cut, form, fabricate and erect the materials used during construction. They have to understand the English language for the purpose of listening, reading, writing and other communication skills necessary in the workplace. They work with a variety of hand, mechanical and power cutting, punching, and forming machines, welding and burning equipment and lifting equipment such as hoists, chain falls, cranes, hi-lows, and helicopters. Work is performed indoors and outdoors and in all types of weather. It involves considerable standing, bending, kneeling, walking, reaching, and lifting, as well as work at heights, and the frequent unaided lifting of tools, materials, supplies and equipment weighing as much as 75 pounds. The work may be performed in easily accessible or cramped spaces located above, at or below ground level, in cold or extreme heat, and/or in clement or inclement weather.

Although hazards are kept to a minimum by following safety measures, sheet metal worker may be subjected to a variety of hazards such as cuts from sharp metal, burns from welding and cutting, falls from heights and strains from bending and lifting heavy objects. Sheet metal workers can be exposed to a variety of chemicals, paints, solvents, oils and fumes in the shop and on the construction site. They must be able to perform job assignments while wearing respirators, hearing, eye and head protection and/or a work harness (personal protection equipment), when required.

The work of the sheet metal worker may be seasonal in character and sometimes subject to prolonged layoffs. You must have a valid drivers' license and provide your own dependable transportation to and from work and school and from one area job site to another throughout the six (6) county areas of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, St. Clair and Sanilac. Fabrication and erection schedules may require working on day, afternoon or night shifts.

This description of the duties and working conditions of the sheet metal worker is not completely encompassing. It is the responsibility of the sheet metal worker to perform whatever duties the employer assigns which are necessary to complete the fabrication and installation of sheet metal work in a safe and efficient manner.

If you are accepted into the apprenticeship program you will spend your first year as a probationary apprentice. After successfully completing the probationary period (one year) you will then be indentured into the apprenticeship program and serve a four year apprenticeship. Your wages will increase and you will receive benefits. See page two for current wage rates.

To get into the apprenticeship program you must first register for and then take the entrance exam. Please go to [www.smw80jac.org](http://www.smw80jac.org) for information about the entrance exam.

Once you pass the exam you will be placed on the applicant list highest score first. As the need for apprentices arises we call applicants for an oral interview. If you have a successful interview you will move to the next step. Prior to starting work you will be required to attend a short (one to two hours) orientation session, submit to a urinalysis test and after passing the urine analysis test attend a 35 hour trade overview/safety session.

After taking and passing the entrance exam, interview, urinalysis, and the 35 hour overview & safety session you will be sent to work for a Local 80 signatory contractor. .

If you fail any evaluations you are subject to dismissal from the apprenticeship program.

**1. First Year, Probation**

- a. \$12.00/hour, no benefits
- b. 1<sup>st</sup> six months work only
- c. Employer Evaluation
- d. 2<sup>nd</sup> six months work and concentrated training
  - i. 12 weeks work
  - ii. 14 weeks school
- e. Employer evaluation
- f. School evaluation

**2. Second Year & Third Year**

- a. 2<sup>nd</sup> year 45% journeyman scale plus benefits (\$14.35 /hour + benefits)
- b. 3<sup>rd</sup> year 50% journeyman scale plus benefits (\$15.94/hour + benefits)
- c. Work and concentrated training
  - i. 80 hours every six months
- d. Employer and school evaluation every six months

**3. Fourth and Fifth Year**

- a. 4<sup>th</sup> year 55% journeyman scale plus benefits (\$17.53/hour + benefits)
- b. 5<sup>th</sup> year 60% journeyman scale plus benefits (\$19.13/hour + benefits)
- c. Work and concentrated training
  - i. 40 hours every six months
- d. Employer and school evaluation every six months

- 4. Graduation to Journeyman status after completion of probationary year and four year of indentured apprenticeship. Total of five years. Current wage rate \$31.88/hour + benefits.

Please go to <http://www.smw80jac.org/exam.html> for information about the entrance exam.

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