



THE UNION DIFFERENCE

Skyrocketing college tuition prices and a booming construction economy have many young people weighing a union construction apprenticeship against a four-year college degree or nonunion construction work. Choosing to go union can offer major advantages, now and down the road.

Union construction apprenticeships offer:

- ✓ Robust training
- ✓ Competitive wage and benefit levels
- ✓ No burdensome student loans

CONSTRUCTION JOBS BY THE NUMBERS*

	UNION	NONUNION
YEARLY AVERAGE SALARY	\$68,000	\$50,700
% WITH HEALTHCARE	96%	69%
% WITH RETIREMENT BENEFITS	94%	68%

* Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Census Bureau data, 2021, and [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data](#)

THE IBEW ADVANTAGE

- ✓ Largest energy union in the world
- ✓ Most qualified electricians in the trade
- ✓ 838,000 members and retirees in the United States, U.S. territories, and Canada
- ✓ Members work in construction, utilities, manufacturing, telecommunications, broadcasting, railroads, government, and more sectors
- ✓ IBEW and construction employer-partners are the largest private sector trainer of electrical workers in the United States
- ✓ IBEW and partners operate nearly 300 construction training centers in the U.S., investing nearly \$200 million annually in training centers at no cost to participants or taxpayers
- ✓ Apprentices learn while they earn, including health and retirement benefits
- ✓ Students receive hands-on experience as well as classroom fundamentals of electrical, mechanical, and construction theory

ENSURE A FAIR RETURN ON OUR WORK

Median Weekly Earnings of Full-Time Wage and Salary Workers, 2023

