

# Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act (STAEA) Information for Apprentices



The *Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act* (STAEA) came into force in 2022. It has enabled Alberta to make some modern changes to our apprenticeship education and skilled trades system.

## Modernized Language

Then	Now
Journeyman certificate	Journeyperson certificate
Employer	Sponsor
Supervisor / Journeyperson	Mentor / Journeyperson
Contract of Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship Education Agreement
Technical training	Classroom instruction
Record book	Competence portfolio
Compulsory and optional certification trades	Restricted activities and authorized individuals

## Sponsorship

Your sponsor facilitates your on-the-job learning and helps you progress through your program.

A sponsor may be:

- your direct employer, or
- another organization that coordinates your employment and mentorship (such as a **union** or a **non-profit organization**).

Sponsors can coordinate with **multiple employers** for a single apprentice.

## Pre-Sponsorship Registration

You may **attend first-year classroom instruction before you have sponsor**. All you need to do is register as an apprentice and meet the education entrance requirements for your trade.

However, you won't be able to start working and learning on the job until you have a sponsor.

Visit [tradesecrets.alberta.ca/begin-an-apprenticeship](https://tradesecrets.alberta.ca/begin-an-apprenticeship) for more information.

## Education Credentials



When you graduate from your Apprenticeship Education Program, you will now receive both an Education Credential **and** a journeyperson certificate.

### Education Credential

- Confirms your post-secondary learning achievement.
- Reflects the length and complexity of your program.
- Helps determine your eligibility for transfer credit for further post-secondary programs.
- Helps future employers (even outside of the trades) understand what level of education you have.

### Journeyperson Certificate

- Authorizes you to work, unsupervised, in the full scope of the trade anywhere in Alberta.
- Recognizes that you are a skilled professional and have achieved a high level of competency and knowledge in your field.
- Is issued when you demonstrate that you have met Alberta's certification standards.

Visit [tradesecrets.alberta.ca/credentials](https://tradesecrets.alberta.ca/credentials) for more information.

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## Alberta Board of Skilled Trades

The new **Alberta Board of Skilled Trades** advises government on the direction of Alberta's designated trades certification system.

The board has **flexibility and autonomy** to determine how best to **engage with industry experts** and stakeholders to ensure the system is meeting needs.

Visit [www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca/abst](http://www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca/abst) for more information.

## Apprenticeship and Industry Training

The Government of Alberta manages the province's apprenticeship and skilled trades system under the **Apprenticeship and Industry Training (AIT)** banner.

AIT acts as both the registrar of apprenticeship education, and the administrator of designated trade certification.

### Registrar

- Establishes apprenticeship education program requirements
- Administers apprenticeship education programs
- Issues education credentials to graduates
- Plays a role similar to that of a college, university, or polytechnic institution's plays in post-secondary programs outside of apprenticeship education

### Administrator

- Assesses applicant's eligibility for journeyman certification
- Issues journeyman certificates
- Monitors compliance with restricted activities
- Plays a role similar to that of a professional regulatory body plays in regulated professions outside of the designated trades.

## Restricted Activities

STAEA adds flexibility to how work within designated trades is regulated.

### Who can work in a designated trade?

#### Before STAEA

Only registered apprentices or qualified tradespersons\*

*\*trades were categorized as compulsory or optional depending on whether journeyman certification was required to be considered a qualified tradesperson.*

#### With STAEA

##### Restricted Activities

Only registered apprentices or qualified tradespersons\*

##### Non-restricted Activities

Anyone.

*\* Visit [tradesecrets.alberta.ca/trades](http://tradesecrets.alberta.ca/trades) to find out whether journeyman certification is required to be considered a qualified tradesperson in your trade.*

## Learn more!

Visit [www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca/STAEA](http://www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca/STAEA).

