

Vocational, Trades, and Certificate Programs

Skilled workers for trades and other careers requiring certification are in high demand! Trades are an incredible post-secondary option. Many trade schools and certificate programs provide on-the-job training in a short amount of time that can lead you to an exciting and in-demand career.

Vocational/Trade Schools provide degrees and certifications that help to prepare you for a given trade or line of work. These schools typically cater to preparing individuals for careers that require training or hands-on experience, yet don't require a full two-year, four-year college degree or graduate school.

Certificate Programs are offered at community colleges and require a certain number of courses based on the program. Most take anywhere from 1-2 years to complete. Several programs allow you earn a certificate while continuing your coursework toward higher certificate levels and, in some cases, work toward an Associate's degree.

Helpful Links:

[Certification Programs at Elgin Community College](#)
[U.S. Department of Labor - Career Information \(O*NET\)](#)

[Illinois Worknet - Explore Careers](#)

Additional Links:

- Construction Industry Service Organization (CISCO) Apprenticeship Guide
<http://www.cisco.org/apprenticeship/>
- CTA Apprenticeship Program
<http://www.transitchicago.com/business/apprenticeshipprog.aspx>
- ICATT Apprenticeship Programs
<https://www.icattapprenticeships.com/apprentices/>
- Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) - Apprenticeship Information Program
<http://www.ides.illinois.gov/Pages/Apprenticeship.aspx>
- Illinois Trade Schools
<http://www.trade-schools.net/locations/illinois-schools-directory.asp>
- US Department of Labor
<https://www.dol.gov/apprenticeship/>