

Teacher Guide: Exploring Skilled Trades & Apprenticeship Pathways (Ontario)

Grade Levels: 9–12

Courses: Careers (GLC20), Technological Education, Co-op, SHSM

Ontario Curriculum Connections – Careers (GLC20)

- D1.2 – Identify postsecondary pathways, including apprenticeship.
- D1.4 – Investigate labour-market trends and employment opportunities.
- D2.2 – Assess skills and qualifications needed for careers of interest.

Learning Goals

- Understand apprenticeship as a postsecondary pathway equal to college and university.
- Explore OYAP and other apprenticeship entry routes.
- Analyze Ontario labour-market information for skilled trades.
- Identify employability and technical skills needed for success.

DETAILED LESSON FLOW (75 MINUTES)

Minds On – Activating Prior Knowledge (10 minutes)

- Prompt: 'What postsecondary options are available after high school?'
- Students brainstorm individually, then share with a partner.
- Teacher records responses (college, university, trades, work, military).
- Introduce apprenticeship as a postsecondary pathway equal to college/university.

Action Part A – What Is an Apprenticeship? (15 minutes)

- Students read the Apprenticeship overview section from The Trades Report.
- Key points: paid training, 85–90% on-the-job learning, 2–5 years to completion.
- Teacher facilitates discussion clarifying misconceptions.
- Students write a one-sentence definition of apprenticeship.

Action Part B – Pathways into Apprenticeship (15 minutes)

- Students work in small groups.
- Each group examines one pathway: OYAP, traditional apprenticeship, group sponsors, pre-apprenticeship, or college trades programs.
- Groups identify: who it is for, key requirements, and one benefit.
- Groups share highlights with the class.

Action Part C – Skills & Labour Market Exploration (20 minutes)

- Class reviews employability skills needed in the skilled trades.
- Students identify skills they already have and skills to develop.
- Students select one trade and examine wage range and demand in Ontario.
- Teacher explains how labour-market data supports career decisions.

Consolidation – Reflection & Exit Ticket (15 minutes)

- Students complete a written reflection or exit ticket.
- Students identify one trade of interest, one pathway, and two skills to build.
- Optional class share or collection for assessment.

Assessment & Evaluation

- FOR Learning: Observation during discussions.
- AS Learning: Student reflection on skills and interests.
- OF Learning: Completed worksheets and exit ticket.

Differentiation & Accommodations

- Provide sentence starters or graphic organizers.
- Allow oral, visual, or written responses.
- Offer extended research opportunities for enrichment.