



College vs. Construction Craft Apprenticeship

COLLEGE

APPRENTICESHIP

Pay for classroom learning.

Get paid for on-the-job training.

COST

\$22,500/year

EARNINGS

\$18-\$24/hour to start

YEAR 1

-\$22,500
Debt

YEAR 1

\$37,440-\$49,920
+ Benefits & Pension

YEAR 2

-\$22,500
Debt

YEAR 2

\$41,600-\$54,080
+ Benefits & Pension

YEAR 3

-\$22,500
Debt

YEAR 3

\$45,760-\$58,240
+ Benefits & Pension

YEAR 4

-\$22,500
Debt

YEAR 4

\$49,920-\$62,400
+ Benefits & Pension

TOTAL OVER 4 YEARS

-\$90,000 Debt
+ College Degree

TOTAL OVER 4 YEARS

\$174,720-\$224,640 Earnings
+ Benefits & Pension

WORK EXPERIENCE

0 years in the industry

WORK EXPERIENCE

4 years in the industry
Journey-level craftsperson

Source: Southern Illinois Builders Association, 2023