

OPERATING ENGINEERS

Operating Engineers use machinery to move construction materials, earth, petroleum products, coal, grain, manufactured goods and other heavy materials. Generally, they move materials over short distances—around a construction site, factory, warehouse, on or off trucks and ships. Operators control equipment by moving levers or foot pedals, operating switches or turning dials. They may also set up and inspect equipment, make adjustments, and perform minor repairs. Operators are classified by the type of equipment they operate: crane and tower operators; excavation and loading machine operators; grader, dozer, and scraper operators; hoist and winch operators; industrial truck and tractor operators.

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM & REQUIREMENTS: Applications are taken on an as needed basis for Local 520. Notification for the application dates will be advertised on the website and local newspapers in our jurisdiction at least thirty days prior to the first application date. Interested candidates must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid Illinois driver's license, a high school diploma or GED certificate, and reside in one of the sixteen counties of the local's jurisdiction, in order to apply for the program. Candidates are required to take a written evaluation test. Those who pass the test will be given a 15-20 minute interview and submit the following required documents: birth certificate; valid driver's license; school transcripts; GED transcripts (if applicable); two character references; and paystubs. Candidates who qualify are selected in ranking order from highest to lowest composite score to participate in a three-day evaluation. This evaluation is done on an as needed basis. The final step in the selection process is an interview with the J.A.T.C. Board. Any steps missed in the process will result in a dropped application. Candidates must pass a drug screening. Completed applications will be on file for 2 years, applications have to be completed to become active. Apprentices are accepted into the program from highest to lowest application score on an as needed basis based on work outlook and economy.

WAGE INFORMATION: Local 520 apprentices start at 50% of the wage scale. Journeyman wages are \$42.45 hourly plus health care and pension benefits.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATORY CLASSES: Mechanics, welding/fabrication, electronics, and related vocational training.

WORKING CONDITIONS: Many operating engineers work outdoors in nearly every type of climate and weather condition. Some machines are particularly noisy and shake or jolt the operator.

ABILITIES: Must be able to lift heavy objects and must be able to withstand extreme weather conditions. Must have good math and reading comprehension as well as understand percentages and slopes.

| WAGE + BENEFITS | 1ST YR APPR. |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| \$42.45 + \$36.10 | 50% of wage |

**Operating Engineers Local 520
Apprenticeship & Training Office
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