

# STEAMFITTERS

The trade Steamfitter is a tradesperson who installs, assembles, fabricates, maintains and repairs mechanical piping systems. Steamfitters deal with industrial/commercial/marine piping and heating/cooling systems. Typical industrial process pipe is under high pressure, which requires metals such as carbon steel, stainless steel and many different alloy metals fused together through precise cutting, threading, grooving, bending and welding. Other types of piping systems include steam, ventilation, hydraulics, chemicals, fuel, oil and medical gas. Steamfitters are present at many jobsites performing work on critical piping systems in the manufacturing, milling, refining, medical and food and beverage industries.

**Apprenticeship Program & Requirements:** Steamfitters Local 439 apprenticeship is a 5-year program which consists of 1,200 hours of classroom training and 7,500 on the job work experience. Upon completion of the program the apprentice will have earned 30 credits from SWIC that can be put towards an associate's degree in construction management. Requirements for applicants are at least 18 years of age, high school diploma or GED equivalent and physically capable to do strenuous work. During the selection process applicants will take an aptitude test, be interviewed by the examining board and be able to pass drug and background screening.

**Steamfitters Local 439 Wage Information:** Apprentices starting pay rate is 50% of journeyman's wages (Journeyman's wage is currently \$42.55) and all fringe benefits.

**Recommended Preparatory Classes:** Science, Mathematics, Blueprint Reading, Mechanical Drawing, Welding and Industrial Technology.

**Working Conditions:** Steamfitters work in industrial settings, so the possibilities of chemical exposure, high temperatures, inclement weather, elevated work, strains, burns and mechanical failure are factors.

**Abilities:** Due to the rigorous conditions, physical strength and stamina are needed. Must be comfortable working at high elevations. Also, in this profession mental toughness and awareness is necessary along with social skills and communication.

| <b>WAGE + BENEFITS</b> | <b>1<sup>ST</sup> YR APPR.</b> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| \$42.55 + \$22.81      | 50 % of wage                   |

**Steamfitters Local 439**  
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