



**Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #125  
Apprentice & Journeyman Training Center**

5101 J Street SW  
Cedar Rapids IA 52404

319-362-9259

[ua125jatc.com](http://ua125jatc.com)

**Applying & Qualifying for the  
Apprenticeship Training Program**

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# Local 125 Contacts

## Local 125 Training Center:

5101 J Street SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
319-362-9259  
Liam Wilkins, Training Director

## Local 125 Satellite Offices:

1839 16th Ave SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
319-365-0413  
Luke Swanson, Organizer

16452 US-34 BUS  
West Burlington, IA 52655  
319-754-0845  
Justin Wunderlich, Business Agent/Organizer

1638 Central Ave  
Dubuque, IA 52001  
563-583-0150  
Steve Petersen, Business Agent/Organizer

1695 Burton Ave  
Waterloo, IA 50703  
319-233-7551  
Steve Petersen, Business Agent/Organizer

# Qualifications, Requirements and Abilities

## Qualifications:

- Must be 18 years of age
- Must be a high school graduate or have a GED equivalent

## Requirements:

Must provide to complete application:

- Copy of Birth Certificate
- Photo ID
- Official High School Transcript, or
- GED Certificate and Report of Test results
- Military Form DD214 (Veterans Only)
- Résumé (brief employment history), not required but suggested

## Abilities:

- **Math Skills**—add, subtract, divide, multiply and use algebraic formulas
- **Read and Understand Technical Documents in English**—graphs, charts, blueprints, etc.
- **Communicate in English**—verbal and written
- **Organizational Skills**—meet deadlines, keep a safe and neat working environment
- **Team Oriented**—work well with others
- **Goal Oriented**—see the big picture, envision the finished project
- **Analytical Skills**—develop and implement alternative solutions to a problem
- **Hear, Read and Understand Instructions and Warnings in English**
- **Coordination and Balance**—operate two-handed equipment, maintain balance while navigating irregular surfaces or while performing tasks from a ladder or scaffold, work from heights up to 25 ft., use tools and equipment in confined spaces (e.g. trenches, manholes, and shafts)

## Abilities Continued:

- **Responsible**—show up to work/school on time, every day, all day
- **Physical Skills**—regularly lift and move objects weighing up to 50 lbs. and occasionally over 50 lbs., use strength when pushing, pulling, moving or holding objects in place during installation or repair.
- **Versatile**—work in noisy environment, work in variable climates (hot to cold)

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If you have many of the abilities previously described, you may be well suited for the plumbing, pipefitting & hvacr industry. The contrary does not prevent you from applying for the apprenticeship program; however, problems could arise during your training or on the job site.

Learning more about the UA and the pipe trades can possibly help you determine whether you are suited for this type of work. Learn more by:

- Log onto our website at: **ua125jatc.com**
- Check out the Local 125 website at: **ualocal125.org**
- Accessing the UA website at: **ua.org**
- Follow us on Facebook: **Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #125**
- Contacting the Training Director with your questions

Plumbers & Pipefitters Local #125  
Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee  
offers equal opportunity employment.  
The recruitment, selection, employment  
and training of apprentices will be  
without discrimination because of  
race, color, religion, national  
origin or sex.

**The Local #125 Training Center** is centrally located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, serving an area from Tama to the Mississippi River and Missouri to Minnesota. The training facility is 50,000 sq. feet of state-of-the-art technology—a welding shop which offers a complete power-piping curriculum and food-grade automatic welding, an impressive refrigeration lab with trainers, and a plumbing training technology lab. Additionally, the facility includes a computer lab with distance learning capabilities and conference facilities.

## Nature of Work

The United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Training Center has been training the most highly qualified piping industry workers in the United States for more than a century. In addition to five-year apprenticeship programs, the United Association (UA) offers continuing education opportunities that include training and certifications, also an associate degree through a partnership with Washtenaw Community College (Ann Arbor, MI) and Kirkwood Community College (Cedar Rapids, IA).

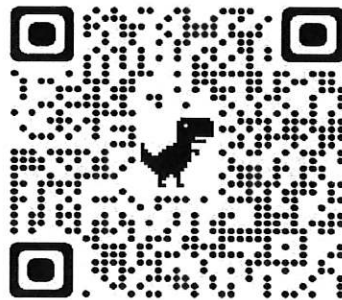
The Local #125 Apprenticeship Program teaches through both classroom and on-the-job training in what is considered a time-honored apprenticeship training tradition. It's a five-year program requiring 1700 hours of on-the-job training and 240-280 hours of related technical and theoretical instruction per year, that motivates apprentices to learn a challenging and rewarding trade while upholding the ideals of trade unionism.

Pipefitting, Refrigeration Fitting, and Plumbing are sometimes considered to be a single trade and many systems such as hydronic heating/cooling, medical gas and welded piping systems are worked on by all. However, journeypersons in this field specialize in either one craft or the other.

- Pipefitters fabricate, assemble, install, maintain, and repair piping systems that transport all types of fluids, slurries and gas in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors. Their work is diverse and in fields such as oil refineries, paper mills, nuclear power plants, and in the automotive industry. Pipefitters often work on high pressure and high temperature systems requiring a thorough knowledge of scientific principles to complete the work safely.
- Refrigeration Fitters (HVAC-R) install, maintain and repair plumbing, heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigeration systems in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors. The demand for this expertise is predicted to grow by more than 30% in the next several years. These technicians also perform essential work in our national goal to improve energy efficiency.
- Plumbers perform work that is essential to the health and safety of our citizens. Plumbers install drinking water, waste and ventilating systems, as well as wastewater treatment systems large and small, in homes offices, schools, hospitals and manufacturing facilities. With a growing focus on green technologies, water conservation and energy efficiency, the demand for plumbers will increase significantly in the years ahead.

# Application Process

To complete an application, interested persons must login into our website @ [www.ua125jatc.com/product/apprenticeship-application/](http://www.ua125jatc.com/product/apprenticeship-application/) or scan the QR code and follow the instructions.



- A properly completed application, along with required supporting documents (birth certificate, photo ID, official high school transcripts or GED certificate) will constitute the completed application.
- Completed applications will be checked for minimum qualifications. Applicants deficient in one or more qualifications or requirements or making false statements on their application will be notified in writing of their disqualification. The applicant will also be notified of the appeal rights available to them. No further processing of the application will be taken.

## **Application Process Continued:**

- The JATC will interview the applicant plus review their application, whereupon the applicant will be scored and receive their final rating (%). Each part of the application process is considered.
- Applicants will be placed on a “Ranking List” according to their scores (configured as a percentage) at the evaluation session, with the applicant having the highest percentage being at the top of the list, and all applicants then listed in descending order based on percentage.
- Apprenticeship openings: Selected applicants must respond to the notice of selection within 48 hours of notice. If applicants cannot be reached by telephone, their names will be passed.
- Qualified applicants remaining on a preceding ranking list will automatically be carried forward on the new ranking list and slotted in wherever their rating **percentage** placed them for a period of one(1) year, unless the applicant has been removed from the list by their own written request or following failure to respond to an apprenticeship opening. Applicants who were not placed during the one(1) year period that were on the ranking list, will be required to reapply.
- Regarding re-applying: During the one-year period, applicants who feel that their qualifications have improved since their original rating may submit documented evidence of such additional experience or training and request reevaluation and rating at the next regular processing cycle.
- Openings for apprenticeships are based on the needs of the industry and the future work expectations of the local. Acceptance of applications does not mean that openings exist now or that they necessarily will in the near future. However, an application must be on file for an individual to be considered when openings do become available.



## **Drug and Alcohol Testing**

### **Testing as a Condition of Admission to the Apprenticeship Program**

Pursuant to the Standards of Apprenticeship certified by the US Department of Labor Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, the Plumbers & Pipefitters Local No. 125 Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) has responsibility for establishing and maintaining rules and requirements governing the administration, supervision, and training of apprentices. In the opinion of the JATC, it is imperative to promote a drug-free workplace and to reduce accidents, injuries, and fatalities in the plumbing and pipefitting industry. Accordingly, Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 125 JATC has adopted a Drug and Alcohol Policy.

- **It is an established policy that applicants accepted into the Apprenticeship Program must test negative on a pre-employment drug test. The admission of any applicant into the Program shall be contingent upon the applicant receiving and the JATC being provided a notice of a confirmed negative drug test result.**
- **An applicant who receives a confirmed positive drug test result or who refuses a pre-employment drug test will not be allowed to reapply or be considered for a position in the Apprenticeship Program for a period of one (1) year.**
- **Failure to submit to a pre-employment drug test under this Policy including the failure to report in a timely manner to a collection site, sign any required consent form or otherwise fully cooperate in the collection of any authorized sample is also strictly prohibited and will be considered a refusal to test.**

# Questions and Answers

## Frequently Asked Questions

### When do I start my apprenticeship?

There is no definitive answer to this question. It could be as little as one day, over a year or more, or maybe never.

### If I arrive late to my scheduled interview can I reschedule?

No.

### What if I become ill or have an emergency on the day of my scheduled interview?

Contact the Training Center immediately at 319-362-9259. However, rescheduling is **NOT** guaranteed.

### Once I have submitted my application can I make changes regarding my choice of area (Burlington, Cedar Rapids or Dubuque) or classification (plumber, pipefitter or refrigeration fitter)?

Yes, at the next interview session.

### How often are interviews scheduled?

Quarterly through the year.

## **More Questions and Answers**

### **Who is the JATC?**

JATC stands for Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee. It is a jointly managed board of trustees—three labor and three management, that oversees the operation of the apprenticeship program.

### **If/when I become an apprentice, how often do I attend classes at the Training Center?**

Six to Seven, 40-hour weeks per year, at intervals about once every six weeks. The rest of your time will be spent on-the-job training.

### **If/when I become an apprentice, how long before I get health insurance benefits?**

Immediately. From day one, you receive health insurance and pension benefits.

### **How much does an apprentice earn?**

An apprentice starts out at 40% of journeyman rate which is set by current contract, then receives a 5% wage increase approximately every six (6) months if work and school performance are satisfactory.

### **Are there any college courses that can help increase my chances of getting into the apprenticeship program?**

Nothing can guarantee your admittance into the apprenticeship program. However, classes that may prove useful for any trade related progress include: math-related courses, blueprint reading, welding, and any other trade-related courses.

## **Equal Opportunity Pledge**

The Local 125 JATC Fund will not discriminate against apprenticeship applicants or apprentices based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation, genetic information, or because they are an individual with a disability or a person 40 years old or older. The Local Union #125 JATC Fund will take affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in apprenticeship and will operate the apprenticeship program as required under Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 30.

### **Local Union No. 125 JATC Fund**

It is the overall objective of the Local #125 JATC to produce the most highly skilled, competent and productive craftsmen that can be developed. As well, it is the obligation of the JATC to provide the resources and environment necessary to assure that apprentices achieve that goal and understand their personal responsibility in this endeavor.

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