

Electrician

Nature of the Work

An Electrician lays out, installs and tests electrical fixtures, and installs electrical wire systems, systems to provide heat, light, power, air conditioning and refrigeration in homes, office building, factories, hospitals and schools. An Electrician also installs conduit, Greenfield and other materials, and connects electrical machinery, equipment and controls in high-rise building and installations. Electricians may be required to work at great heights; or may be required to dig deep trenches and cuts for underground installations. The electrical trade is unique in that it is mechanical, technical, and professional. It must select individuals who have a natural aptitude for using tools, and who are gifted enough to master the intricacies of electrical science. They must keep up with the progress of the industry and master the knowledge of the thousands of installation and maintenance procedures.

Working Conditions

In new construction, electricians move onto the job as soon as the structure begins to take form, installing ground and temporary lights and power. The work is active and strenuous with much of the work done in awkward positions and frequently in cramped quarters. They must do considerable standing, reaching, bending, stooping, climbing, and carrying and lifting in order to install electrical conduit and equipment. They must wear protective clothing to guard against the hazards of working with electricity. They may work in all kinds of weather. The work is interesting and diversified. Electricians may be called upon to work in new and old building, new and old homes and also commercial and industrial construction.

Interest and Personal Qualities

A person interested in becoming an electrician must enjoy working with math problems and be able to work in fairly close tolerances. The electrical industry, by its very nature, places a high degree of personal responsibility on the individual journeyman. While supervision is provided on many jobs, the electrician is often called upon to make decisions regarding the best and safest method of installation to produce a given result.

General Qualifications

- Age 18 or older.
- Minimum education - high school graduate or GED.
- One year of Algebra required.
- American citizenship.
- Good physical condition - must be able to perform the work of the trade

Admission Requirements

- Qualified score on Aptitude test.
- Personal interview.
- Must pass physical exam and drug test.

Terms of Training

- Length of indentureship - 5 years.
- Minimum hours of related classroom instruction - 160 hours.
- Indentured to the Joint Apprenticeship & Training Committee and assigned to an electrical contractor.
- Length of probationary period - 12 months or 2000 hours.
- The term of apprenticeship shall not be less than 8000 hours of employment.

Recommended High School Courses

General Math, Algebra, Geometry, General Science, Trigonometry

Available Applications

Kalamazoo Local 131 JATC, contact Morris Applebey, 3641 East Cork St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Telephone: (269) 382-1762. Fax: (269) 382-4810. Web: <http://www.ibew131.com>

South Bend Local 153 (Benton Harbor area) JATC, contact Ron Michaelis, 56365 Peppermint Road, South Bend, IN 46619. Telephone: (574) 233-1721. Fax: (574) 233-1947. Web: <http://www.ibew153.com>

West Michigan Local 275 JATC, contact Dave Kitchen, 140 N. 64th St., Coopersville, MI 49404, Telephone: (616) 837-7149, ext. 4. Fax: (616) 837-1785. Web: <http://www.ibew275.org/>

Battle Creek Local 445 JATC, contact Chris MacCreery, 1375 West Michigan Ave., Battle Creek, MI 49017. Telephone: (269) 660-9170. Fax: (269) 660-0711. Web: <http://www.ibewlu445.com/>

All applicants are afforded equal opportunity without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age or disability.