

What does a millwright do?

Millwrights install, maintain, diagnose and repair industrial machines that usually cost millions of dollars. Work is done on compressors, pumps, conveyors, monorails, extruders, turbines and mining equipment using hand and power tools, including welding equipment. Millwrights may adjust a machine's calibration just the width of a human hair and increase that machine's productivity by 20 percent. They know their way around a toolbox, power tools, and machinery. They also know that working safely is the top priority all day, every day.

How do I get started?

Your first step is entering an apprenticeship program. The UBC is among the best in North America in apprenticeship training. Your hometown will have a local UBC-affiliated training center close by, with people who can answer any question you have.



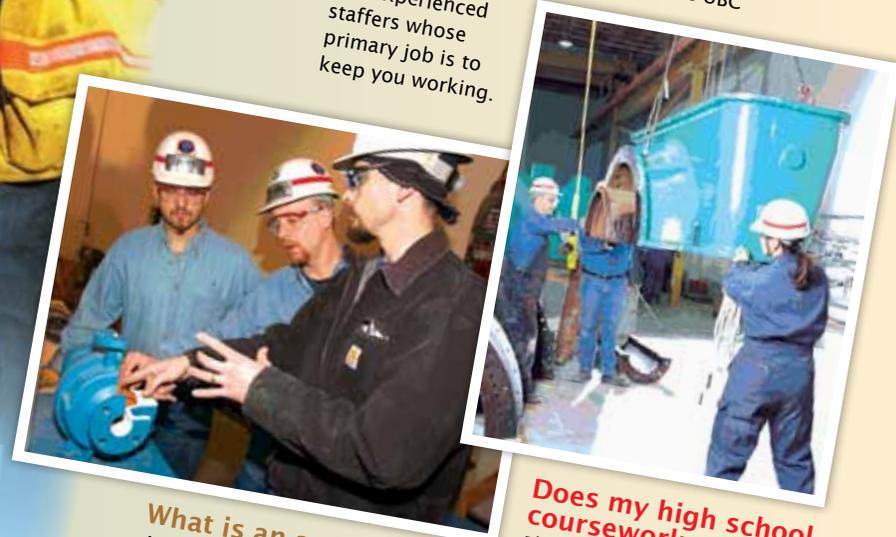
What is the pay?

Millwrights are usually paid by the hour, and as union members, they get "time-and-a-half" or "double-time" for all work done beyond eight hours. From the first day of your apprenticeship you earn a good wage and start earning benefits. You also get regular raises, usually every six months, until you reach the full journeyman scale at the end of the apprenticeship program.

- **Earn while you learn**—Apprentices start earning a good wage immediately.
- **No school loans or tuition to pay back.**
- **Pay raises**—Keep progressing through the program and earn more and more money.
- **Bennies**—Health and retirement benefits start now, for you and your family.

What about job security?

Professional millwrights are members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America—a proud organization that has given men and women an excellent quality of life since 1881. From the first day of your apprenticeship, you will work for a union contractor under the protection of a union contract, which outlines wages, benefits and working conditions. The UBC Local in your area has experienced staffers whose primary job is to keep you working.



Does my high school coursework matter?

Physical skills are important, but equally essential are thinking and communication skills. You can get a head start on becoming a millwright by taking classes in mathematics, drafting, mechanical drawing, industrial arts, and CAD, and by enrolling in industrial shop.

What is an apprentice?

An apprentice is a person in the process of becoming a skilled millwright through training and experience. Apprentices study both in the classroom and on-the-job, under the guidance of skilled workers of that trade, called journeymen. In most cases, the length of your apprenticeship is four years, and training is free. Apprentices earn a good income and learn a trade—all at once. No school loans to repay!

What are the hours?

Millwrights work 8-hour shifts, but if a machinery breakdown occurs, traveling a long distance, working overtime, and splitting shifts may be needed.

What are the working conditions?

A millwright has to be prepared to work in any condition: inside or out, clean or dirty, wet or dry, hot or cold. It's a physical job. Lifting, pushing, pulling, and bending are common. But you are trained in how to do these tasks safely before ever attempting anything like that on a job site. Hardhats, safety glasses, durable clothing and safety shoes are the typical items worn on a job site.

