

# UNION CAREERS: THE SMARTER ADVANTAGE

## WHY A UNION CAREER BEATS COLLEGE AND NON-UNION WORK

A union career lets you start making money immediately instead of paying for years of college. Apprentices are paid while they train, avoid tuition costs, and gain access to healthcare, retirement plans, and even associate degree programs at little to no cost.

The tables below show the financial difference. While college students accumulate debt, union members earn income and benefits from day one.

Wage Benefits of Joining a Union Over College						
AGE	COLLEGE	AVERAGE INCOME	DEBT FROM SCHOOL	UNION	AVERAGE INCOME	DEBT FROM SCHOOL
18	Starting School	0	(7,325)	1st Year Apprentice	\$54,080	\$0
19	20 hrs/week year-round	\$17,680	(7,325)	2nd Year Apprentice	\$58,240	\$0
20	20 hrs/week year-round	\$17,680	(7,325)	3rd Year Apprentice	\$62,400	\$0
21	20 hrs/week year-round	\$17,680	(7,325)	4th Year Apprentice	\$66,560	\$0
	<b>TOTAL AT AGE 22</b>	<b>\$53,040</b>	<b>(29,300)</b>	<b>TOTAL at Age 22</b>	<b>\$241,280</b>	<b>\$0</b>
	POST GRADUATION	\$69,000		Journeyman	\$80,000	

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Wage Benefits of Joining a Union Over Non-Union						
AGE	NON-UNION COMPANY	AVERAGE INCOME	DEBT FROM SCHOOL	UNION	AVERAGE INCOME	DEBT FROM SCHOOL
18		\$41,660	\$0	1st Year Apprentice	\$54,080	\$0
19		\$45,760	\$0	2nd Year Apprentice	\$58,240	\$0
20		\$49,920	\$0	3rd Year Apprentice	\$62,400	\$0
21		\$54,080	\$0	4th Year Apprentice	\$66,560	\$0
	<b>TOTAL AT AGE 22</b>	<b>\$191,360</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>TOTAL at Age 22</b>	<b>\$241,280</b>	<b>\$0</b>

### Other Benefits of Joining a Union Over College

- Retirement Planning Right After High School
- Healthcare benefits
- Free or Low Cost Degree Programs
- Training is focused on learning the trade
- No debt

### Other Benefits of Joining a Union Over Non-Union

- More emphasis on safety
- Enhanced job security
- Apprenticeship programs
- Higher wages
- Pension and Annuity Plans
- Healthcare Benefits
- Free or Low Cost Degree Programs
- On the Job Training
- More Employers, More Opportunities



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