

# It's hard finding the right career!

This may help:

- ◆ Do you have lots of different interests?
- ◆ Get bored doing the same thing over and over?
- ◆ Like computers? Coding? High Tech equipment?
- ◆ How about challenges and action strategies?

A Controls Programmer might be programming a high-tech piece of equipment one day, evaluating the performance of an HVAC system the next day and fine-tuning the master controls for an entire smart building the day after that!

*Building Automation and Control Systems (BACS) professional in one of many work environments.*



If a career in the Controls Technology and Smart Building Automation industry sounds right for you, contact your high school Career Counselor to get started.

You'll need:

- ◆ Parent/Guardian Permission
- ◆ A current resume
- ◆ A cover letter
- ◆ To enroll in your high school's courses designated as Related Supplemental Instruction
- ◆ To obtain a valid driver's license within 90 days of acceptance into the apprenticeship

**You can contribute to your success:**

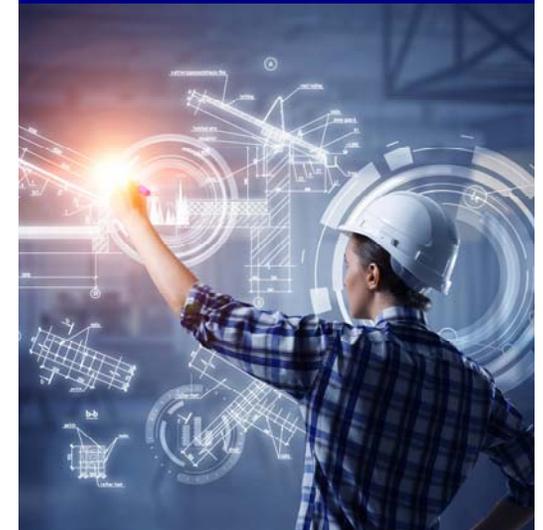
Think about how your interests connect with this occupation and use those examples for your resume, cover letter and interview.

Commit to developing "soft skills" employers expect—excellent attendance, arriving to work on time, meeting challenges with a positive attitude, progressing towards graduation and being a team player.

To find out more:

- ◆ <https://www.smartbuildingscenter.org/controls-apprenticeship>
- ◆ Talk with Your High School Career Counselor
- ◆ Program Coordinator: Melanie Danuser, [melanie.danuser@neec.net](mailto:melanie.danuser@neec.net)
- ◆ Training Coordinator: Karen Borders, [borders@skschools.org](mailto:borders@skschools.org)

# Controls Programmer Apprenticeship



**An exciting pathway for youth interested in a high-pay, high-tech, hands-on career!**

## Why choose the Controls Technology industry?

Managing automated systems in a complex, high-tech facility takes more than knowing how to operate a Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) system. Today's smart buildings industry needs hands-on professionals with knowledge in controls technology, computer programming and networking, electronics, energy management strategies and contracting.

In the next few years, companies that manage smart building automation will be facing a serious shortage of highly skilled professionals. Many industries will face this challenge as thousands of current employees transition to retirement.

The Controls Technology industry has an additional challenge: development of new smart building technologies is happening faster than new professionals are entering into the profession! This situation ensures that young professionals in the field will be in demand for many years to come and there will be ample opportunities for career and salary advancement.

Youth Apprentices can expect to make a minimum of \$15/hour, with hourly rate increases at regulated intervals. A successful Apprentice graduating at 2,000 hours of on-the-job training, can expect to earn as much as \$65,000 per year.

This industry needs you!



Photo Courtesy of Slideshare.net: 353 Faculty of Engineering, University of Lagos

**Apprenticeship requires a time commitment beyond that of a typical high school student. Students work, on average, 10-15 hours per week in addition to classes. Work hours occur during the school week with additional hours on weekends, holidays and summer breaks. These hours are determined by state law—check with your high school's Career Center for more details.**

### How Apprenticeship works:

Apprenticeship combines classroom studies with on-the-job training supervised by a journey-level trade

The Controls Programmer Youth Apprenticeship is an occupation approved by the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council and registered as Program ID #2178. Apprentices must be 16 years of age. Enrollment in the courses for Related Supplemental Instruction (RSI) can begin prior to age 16 and submitted for advanced placement once employed with a Training Agent.

professional. Much like a college education, it takes a few years to graduate. But unlike college, as an Apprentice *you will earn while you learn.*

New Apprentices enter the program by applying for a job with one of the Apprenticeship's partner employers, or Training Agents. You then apply to become an Apprentice through the Apprenticeship Committee.

Hourly rates begin around \$15/hour and increase incrementally as your knowledge level grows.

Apprentices gain valuable business, job and leadership skills. You graduate as an experienced, journey-level professional with a state-issued, nationally-recognized industry credential, eligible to earn the same top wages as other professionals in your field.



Additional Photos Courtesy of MacDonald-Miller Facility Solutions