

SEE YOURSELF IN GLASS

Registered Apprenticeship: Earn While You Learn

Why the apprenticeship matters

\$8.00 more per hour — about \$16,640 a year, for every year you install glass.

A glazier and a journeyworker glazier do the same work at the same level. The difference is the credential and the pay. A journeyworker glazier is someone who has completed a Registered Apprenticeship program, which not only means higher wages (the top of the journeyworker range is \$39/hour, while the top of the glazier range is \$31/hour), but also a Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship that travels with you to show your training and skills.

Apprenticeship programs are available through local glass companies and your local International Union of Painters & Allied Trades (IUPAT) union hall. While programs vary in terms of wages, benefits and framework due to location and company structure, here is how they generally work:

Apprenticeship component	What it means
On-the-job training	Three years (typically) of paid on-the-job training, working alongside experienced glaziers.
Related classroom instruction	Classroom instruction alongside your training. This could be online or in person; your employer will determine the schedule.
Wage progression	Scheduled wage increases tied to hours completed and coursework passed.

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Apprenticeship component	What it means
Credential at completion	A nationally recognized credential. When you finish, you receive a Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship — official recognition that you've reached journeyworker-level competency in the trade. It's recognized by employers across the country, and it belongs to you, not to the company that trained you.
What it might cost you	Most costs are covered by your employer or sponsor, and no registered apprenticeship requires student loans. Where apprentices do pay something, it's usually tools and work clothes, books and materials, class tuition, or state testing and license fees. The exact answer depends on the program. For glass companies using the NGA Glazier Registered Apprenticeship Curriculum, apprentices pay \$0. Other sponsors set their own terms. Ask your employer what you pay, what your employer covers, and whether you'd owe money back if you leave before finishing.

What you walk away with

- A recognized credential that travels with you between employers and states.
- No student loan debt. Whatever the cost, you're earning while you pay it.
- Journey-level wages.