



## What is the difference between an apprenticeship and an internship?

Both are meant to help students and young professionals gain expertise in an industry. Internships are often filled with college students and are usually unpaid or are only part-time positions. An apprenticeship is paid, on-the-job training program for people that want to learn a trade or work toward having professional qualifications. Apprenticeship focus more on teaching skills needed to work in a trade. Internships are often viewed as networking opportunities.

Below are a few of the differences in detail:

1. **Length of Time:**
  - a. Internships are short term (months).
  - b. Apprenticeships are long term (years).
2. **Structure:**
  - a. Apprenticeships have a structured plan that focus learning specific skills that an employer needs to fill a particular position.
  - b. Internships are not structured and focus on entry level work experience.
3. **Mentorship:**
  - a. Apprentices receive individualized training with an experienced mentor.
  - b. Internships don't always include a mentor.
4. **Pay:**
  - a. Apprenticeships are paid programs that lead to full time jobs.
  - b. Internships are often unpaid with no guarantee of a job when complete.
5. **Credentials:**
  - a. Apprenticeships lead to a nationally industry recognized credential.
  - b. Internships don't usually lead to recognized credentials.
6. **College Credit:** They both can lead to college credits but,
  - a. Apprenticeships often lead to debt-free college degrees
  - b. Internships not so much.

**Northwest Illinois Regional Economic Development Area**  
LaSalle, Putnam, Bureau, Lee, Whiteside, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Henry, Mercer, and Rock Island Counties

