

**Harper College Registered Apprenticeship Program  
Department of Labor Certificate: Graphic Arts Print Production  
AAS Degree: Graphic Arts Design and Technology - Print Graphics**

**FACT SHEET**  
Print Graphics

**WHY HIRE AN APPRENTICE?**

- Build a talent pipeline of highly skilled employees.
- Lower costs of advertising and recruiting.
- Reduce turnover rates.
- Enhance employee loyalty and motivation.
- Invest in talent that can keep pace with the latest industry advances.
- Solution for workforce retirements of highly skilled and experienced workers.
- Create career pathway for employees.
- Apprentices can play a role in future recruiting of talented employees.

**WHAT EMPLOYER CAN PARTICIPATE?**

- Any employer needing to hire entry/mid-level employees.
- Apprentice can be a new hire or a current employee.
- No minimum or maximum number of apprentices required.

**WHAT IS HARPER'S REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM?**

- Registered Apprenticeship (RA) Program is a Harper College Associates in Applied Science (AAS) Degree in Graphic Arts Technology with concentration in Print Graphics.
- 2-year program.
- Upon successful completion, a National RA Certificate is awarded.
- Harper is the Registered Apprenticeship Program Sponsor handling all paperwork.

**HOW TO START?**

- Sign agreement with Harper to participate in the RA Program.
- Hire an apprentice prior to start of semester.
- Negotiate starting salary with apprentice.

## WHAT ARE THE DETAILS FOR EMPLOYERS?

- Hire an apprentice full time and pay wages/ benefits while apprentice is on the job and in the classroom.
- Pay the cost of the Registered Apprenticeship (RA) program at Harper College.
- Provide experienced mentor for the On-the-Job Training (OJT) component of the RA program.
- Apprentices cannot work at employer on days they are required to be at Harper College.
- Apprentices cannot work more than a 40-hour week while classes are in session (OJT plus course work).
- Permit apprentice to attend RA Program classes.
- Give apprentice annual salary increases until RA program completion to reflect skill and knowledge increase.
- Track apprentice hours and progress using competencies.
- *Optional:* Employer may contract with apprentice to remain an employee 1 – 2 years after completion of Registered Apprenticeship program.
- *Optional:* Employer may contract with apprentice to repay any costs of RA program invested in their education to date if employer terminates their employment, apprentice fails a course, or apprentice decides to quit and does not complete the RA Program.

## HARPER COLLEGE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide the AAS degree curriculum (Related Technical Instruction) component of the Registered Apprenticeship program.
- Meet 3 semesters/year. Semesters are 16 weeks in length, with a shorter summer semester. Apprentice attends class on varying days, some evenings, and some Saturdays dependent upon that semester's schedule. While not in class, the apprentice will work at employer.
- Classes taught by qualified Harper faculty.
- Tutor for apprentices as needed.
- Coaches meet regularly with apprentices to follow their academic progress.
- Provide free mentorship training program for employer mentors.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

- Total RA Program cost: \$2,500/semester per apprentice while enrolled. Total cost is \$15,000.
- Employer invoiced each semester (6 total) while the apprentice is enrolled in courses.

**CALL THE OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP TODAY**  
**847-925-6630**

<http://www.harpercollege.edu/apprenticeship>