

Soft Skills

Invest in yourself

Investing in yourself takes time and commitment, not money – but is a key factor in how you eventually progress. Think about the steps you can take to help yourself succeed as you work towards the goal of being certified in your trade. Ideas of how you can invest in yourself include the following:

1. Network
2. Be trades-adjacent, don't be shy to introduce yourself to a tradesperson, anywhere
3. Have business cards ready to hand out and an elevator pitch ready to recall at all times
4. Take advantage of opportunities to attend trade-related events and program
5. Volunteer
6. Habitat for Humanity
7. Find a local business that may need some help and offer your service
8. Be aware of the news – sometimes opportunities are broadcasted
9. Check with your city and see if there are any openings you can get involved with
10. Volunteering not only gives you exposure to skills but also provides you with the opportunity to grow your network
11. Transferable skills
12. Listen actively (communications)
13. Work on emotional intelligence, be aware of the needs surrounding you
14. Take feedback positively and apply it to your job
15. Openly communicate with those you work with (teamwork)
16. Mentorship
17. Ask for guidance and ask questions when appropriate
18. Take advantage of the time you spend with your journey person – they carry a lot of knowledge that you can learn from which you can apply throughout your apprenticeship
19. Tools and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
20. Do your research when purchasing equipment
21. Invest in good quality items
22. Learn how to take care of your equipment
23. Transportation
24. Ensure you have access to reliable transportation
25. Have a driver's license or show initiative by getting licensed
26. Be Memorable
27. Understand what it takes to be a top candidate
28. Do informational interviews and talk to employers in person
29. Exude enthusiasm when talking to potential employers