

WELDING CAREERS

Welding is used in thousands of manufacturing activities including the construction of buildings, bridges and other structures.¹

Welders play a vital role in a variety of industries, from the military and aerospace to energy and construction. The growth of infrastructure projects like the rebuilding of bridges and highways is adding to demand for skilled welders, making this a lucrative career choice for those interested in pursuing it.²

Average Salary:

\$47,010³

As with most skilled trades jobs, safety and communication are vital.¹

The welding profession offers a variety of working conditions — some jobs require outdoor work and some indoor work; most jobs are full-time but some may require more than 40 hours per week.³

Schooling Needed: High school diploma or equivalent

Responsibilities¹:

- Studying blueprints
- Calculating dimensions
- Inspecting structures
- Using over 100 different welding processes

4 Steps to Jump-start Your Welding Career

1

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Education is essential. Start by seeking out courses at local educational institutions; research welding safety and techniques.²

2

FIND PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES

Practice makes progress! Consider investing in your own welding machine, or look for entry-level courses where practice on live welders or virtual reality trainers, like Realityworks' guideWELD® VR welding simulator, are offered.

3

INTERVIEW PROFESSIONALS

A great way to determine whether a potential career is right for you is by interviewing individuals who have the job you want. Find local industries that employ welders and call to request an interview. Most professionals are happy to share their knowledge.

4

INVEST IN YOUR WELDING EDUCATION

Technical training may be offered through secondary technical courses or programs at post-secondary institutions, community colleges or even private welding, soldering and brazing schools. The US Armed Forces also offer welding-related training courses. You might consider studying blueprint reading, shop mathematics, mechanical drawing and even electricity.⁴

1. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/production/welders-cutters-solderers-and-brazers.htm>

2. <https://primeweld.com/blogs/news/whats-the-welding-job-outlook-for-2021>

3. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/production/welders-cutters-solderers-and-brazers.htm>

4. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/production/welders-cutters-solderers-and-brazers.htm#tab-4>