

# Career Pathway Inventory

Job Wages & Projections

**Career at a Glance**

Wherever you look in today's high tech world the hand of the metal worker is evident! Your car, bike, bridges, ships, planes, your home's heating ductwork, the list is endless! The need for Welders and Fabricators continue to grow daily! The average age of today's welders is 55 years of age. Within the next 5-10 years there will be a shortage of 250,000 welders and skilled metal fabricators in our country. (Wall St. Journal Article "Where Have all the Welder Gone," 2006)

**What to expect while in this program at Assabet Valley**

Metal Fabrication students develop to become employable in today's job market, or continue their educational in engineering, art colleges and technical certificate programs as well as related metal working job skills in the U.S. armed forces.

Students will gain knowledge & skills in several structural steel welding & fabrication, pipe welding, ornamental design & fabrication, layout & sheet metal fabrication, blue print reading, metallurgy, science & math for metal workers. Skills in Mig, Tig, Stick, Plasma, Oxy/fuel cutting & gas welding, brazing, and soldering techniques will be taught. American Welding Society certifications may be earned. In addition, students have the option to participate in many community service projects, contests, and real life work experiences.

**Optional Advanced Position**  
**Title:** Fabrication Business Owner  
**Education:** Business Degree (recommended)  
**Experience:** 8-10 years

Exit to Career

Average Wage \$100,000 +  
 No local projection data available.

**Optional Advanced Position**  
**Title:** Manufacturing Manager  
**Education:** B.S. Engineering  
**Experience:** 7+ years & trade licenses

Exit to Career

Average Wage \$129,600  
 2,720 Projected openings by 2016

**Advanced Level Position**  
**Title:** Industrial Production Manager  
**Education:** 5 Year apprenticeship  
**Experience:** Associate's (2 yrs college) plus trade certifications

Exit to Career

Average Wage \$95,350  
 Projected openings by 2016

**Certificate Level Position**  
**Title:** Sheet Metal / Welder  
**Education:** Associates (2 years)  
**Experience:** Continuation of apprenticeship program

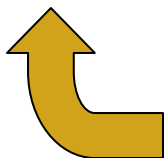
Exit to Career

Average Wage \$55,320  
 1,070 Projected openings by 2016

**Entry Level Position**  
**Title:** Sheet Metal Apprentice / Welder  
**Education:** Apprenticeship  
**Experience:** High School Diploma

Exit to Career

Average Wage \$ 39,385  
 3,440 Projected openings by 2016



**Metal Fabrication**

