Press and Post-Press Operator



Youth Apprenticeship

PRESS AND POST-PRESS OPERATOR

Press and Post-Press Operator youth apprentices gain foundational skills of press and post-press operation skills including printing software, equipment, and press and post-press processes.

Length of Apprenticeship: One year

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

Youth apprentices must become proficient in both general employability and occupation-specific competencies. All of these, and examples of how each can be demonstrated, are found in the following pages. Below are 13 occupational competencies that must be learned for this occupation. Employers may substitute one of these and should write in the competency they are adding. Youth apprentices must be evaluated on these competencies at least two times each year of their apprenticeship.

Competencies

- 1. Review job ticket
- 2. Perform work according to all safety guidelines and requirements
- 3. Monitor equipment for correct operation
- 4. Clean up work area
- 5. Register print job
- 6. Mount plate/screen (N/A for digital printing)
- 7. Load substrate and ink
- 8. Set up press
- 9. Verify press set up (make-ready)
- 10. Perform press operation
- 11. Set up post-press
- 12. Verify post-press set up (make-ready)
- 13. Perform post-press operation

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP BRIDGING OPPORTUNITIES

Some of the related instruction courses can bridge into the following registered apprenticeship:

• RA IT Software Developer

POST-SECONDARY PATHWAY OPPORTUNITIES

There are several post-secondary pathway opportunities in this area. Following is partial list.

• Printing Technical Diploma

- Graphic Web Design Associate
- Design & Graphic Technology Associate Degree



Press and Post-Press Operator

Youth Apprenticeship

ON-THE-JOB LEARNING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS GUIDE

YOUTH APPRENTICE INFORMATION

Youth Apprentice Name	
YA Coordinator	
YA Consortium	
School District	
SIGNATURES	
The On-the-Job Learning Performance Standards Gu	uide includes a list of competencies youth
apprentices learn through mentoring and training a	·
·	ool-based or YA coordinator on a regular basis with ature steps to ensure completion of the required tor, and the apprentice sign below. Er/Mentor
1st Evaluation (Required) Employer/Mentor Signature	2 nd Evaluation (Required) Employer/Mentor Signature
Limployer/Mentor Signature	Employer/Wentor Signature
Employer/Mentor	Employer/Mentor
Business/Company	Business/Company
Date Signed	Date Signed
3 rd Evaluation (Optional)	4th Evaluation (Optional)
Employer/Mentor Signature	Employer/Mentor Signature
Employer/Mentor	Employer/Mentor
Business/Company	Business/Company
Date Signed	Date Signed

School-Based and/or YA Coordinator

1st Evaluation (Required)

2nd Evaluation (Required)

School-Based and/or YA Coordinator Signature	School-Based and/or YA Coordinator Signature
School-Based and/or YA Coordinator	School-Based and/or YA Coordinator
School District or Organization	School District or Organization
Date Signed	Date Signed

3rd Evaluation (Optional)

4th Evaluation (Optional)

School-Based and/or YA Coordinator Signature	School-Based and/or YA Coordinator Signature
School-Based and/or YA Coordinator	School-Based and/or YA Coordinator
School District or Organization	School District or Organization
Date Signed	Date Signed

Youth Apprentice

1st Evaluation (Required)

2nd Evaluation (Required)

Youth Apprentice Signature	Youth Apprentice Signature
Youth Apprentice	Youth Apprentice
School District / High School	School District / High School
Date Signed	Date Signed

3rd Evaluation (Optional)

4th Evaluation (Optional)

Youth Apprentice Signature	Youth Apprentice Signature
Youth Apprentice	Youth Apprentice
School District / High School	School District / High School
Date Signed	Date Signed

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS (TO BE COMPLETED BY YA EMPLOYER/MENTOR)

All youth apprentices must demonstrate the key employability skills listed below in order to complete the YA program. They do so by earning at least a "Meets Expectation" rating in each. **At least two evaluations are required each year of a youth apprenticeship.** More columns are included below for those who choose to conduct more frequent reviews.

	-
1	Working to Meet Expectations: Needs improvement; requires much assistance and supervision;
	rarely displays this behavior
2	Meets Expectations: Meets entry-level criteria; requires some supervision; often displays this
	behavior
3	Exceeds Expectations: Exceeds entry-level criteria; requires minimal supervision; consistently
	displays this behavior

Employability Skills		Rati	ing	
Competency and Rating Criteria	Initial	Mid Year 1	Mid Year 2	Final
 Develops positive work relationships with others. Examples of qualities and habits that the employee might exhibit include: Interacts with others with respect and in a non-judgmental manner Responds to others in an appropriate and non-offensive manner Helps co-workers and peers accomplish tasks or goals Applies problem-solving strategies to improve relations with others When managing others, shows traits such as compassion, listening, coaching team development, and appreciation 	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3			
 2. Communicates effectively with others Examples of qualities and habits that the employee might exhibit include • Adjusts the communication approach for the target audience, purpose, and situation to maximize impact • Organizes messages/information in a logical and helpful manner • Speaks clearly and writes legibly • Models behaviors to show active listening • Applies what was read to actual practice • Asks appropriate questions for clarity • 	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3			
 Collaborates with others Examples of qualities and habits that the employee might exhibit include Works effectively in teams with people of diverse backgrounds regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality, religion, political views, and abilitie Shares responsibility for collaborative work and decision making Uses the problem-solving process to work through differences of opinion in a constructive manner to achieve a reasonable compromise Avoids contributing to an unproductive group conflict Shares information and carries out responsibilities in a timely manner 	s 3	□ 1 □ 2 □ 3	□1 □2 □3	□ 1 □ 2 □ 3

	Employability Skills		Rati	ing	
	Competency and Rating Criteria	Initial	Mid Year 1	Mid Year 2	Final
4.	 Maintains composure under pressure Examples of qualities and habits that the employee might exhibit include Uses critical thinking to determine the best options or outcomes when faced with a challenging situation Carries out assigned duties while under pressure Acts in a respectful, professional, and non-offensive manner while under pressure Applies stress management techniques to cope under pressure 	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3	□1 □2 □3	□1 □2 □3
5.	Demonstrates integrity Examples of qualities and habits that the employee might exhibit include Carries out responsibilities in an ethical, legal and confidential manner Responds to situations in a timely manner Takes personal responsibility to correct problems Models behaviors that demonstrate self-discipline, reliability, and dependability	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3	□1 □2 □3	□1 □2 □3
6.	Performs quality work Examples of qualities and habits that the employee might exhibit include Carries out written and verbal directions accurately Completes work efficiently and effectively Performs calculations accurately Conserves resources, supplies, and materials to minimize costs and environmental impact Uses equipment, technology, and work strategies to improve workflow Applies problem-solving strategies to improve productivity Adheres to worksite regulations and practices Maintains an organized work area	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3			
7.	Provides quality goods or services (internal and external) Examples of qualities and habits that the employee might exhibit include Shows support for the organizational goals and principles by own personal actions Displays a respectful and professional image to customers Displays an enthusiastic attitude and desire to take care of customer needs Seeks out ways to increase customer satisfaction Produces goods to workplace specifications	□ 1 □ 2 □ 3	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3	□1 □2 □3	□1 □2 □3
8.	 Shows initiative and self-direction Examples of qualities and habits that the employee might exhibit include Prioritizes and carries out responsibilities without being told Responds with enthusiasm and flexibility to handle tasks that need immediate attention Reflects on any unsatisfactory outcome as an opportunity to learn Improves personal performance by doing something different or differently Analyzes how own actions impact the overall organization Supports own action with sound reasoning and principles Balances personal activities to minimize interference with work responsibilities 	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3	□1 □2 □3	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3

Employability Skills		Rat	ing	
Competency and Rating Criteria	Initial	Mid	Mid	Final
		Year 1	Year 2	
 Adapts to change Examples of qualities and habits that the employee might exhibit include Shows flexibility and willingness to learn new skills for various job roles Uses problem-solving and critical-thinking skills to cope with changing circumstances Modifies own work behavior based on feedback, unsatisfactory outcomes, efficiency, and effectiveness Displays a "can do" attitude 	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1
	☐ 2	☐ 2	☐ 2	☐ 2
	☐ 3	☐ 3	☐ 3	☐ 3
 10. Demonstrates safety and security regulations and practices Examples of qualities and habits that the employee might exhibit include Follows personal safety requirements Maintains a safe work environment Demonstrates professional role in an emergency Follows security procedures Maintains confidentiality 	☐ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
	☐ 2	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2
	☐ 3	□ 3	□ 3	□ 3
 11. Applies job-related technology, information, and media Examples of qualities and habits that the employee might exhibit include Applies technology effectively in the workplace Assesses and evaluates information on the job Assesses training manuals, website, and other media related to the job 	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1
	☐ 2	☐ 2	☐ 2	☐ 2
	☐ 3	☐ 3	☐ 3	☐ 3
 12. Fulfills training or certification requirements for employment Examples of this requirement may include Participation in required career-related training and/or educational programs Passing certification tests to qualify for licensure and/or certification Participation in company training or orientation 	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1	☐ 1
	☐ 2	☐ 2	☐ 2	☐ 2
	☐ 3	☐ 3	☐ 3	☐ 3
 13. Sets personal goals for improvement Examples of this requirement may include Setting goals that are specific and measurable Setting work-related goals that align with the organization's mission Identifying strategies to reach goals Reflecting on goal progress to regularly evaluate and modify goals 	□ 1	□ 1	□1	□1
	□ 2	□ 2	□2	□2
	□ 3	□ 3	□3	□3

OCCUPATIONAL COMPETENCIES (TO BE COMPLETED BY YA EMPLOYER/MENTOR)

Youth apprentices must earn a rating of at least "MEETS EXPECTATIONS" in each competency by the conclusion of the apprenticeship. A total of 13 competencies, 12 must be from the list below. Employers may substitute one competency with another occupationally appropriate skill. That skill should be added to the competency list for assessment. At least two evaluations are required each year of a youth apprenticeship. More columns are included below for those who choose to conduct more frequent reviews.

1	Working to Meet Expectations: Needs improvement; requires much assistance and supervision;
	rarely displays this behavior
2	Meets Expectations: Meets entry-level criteria; requires some supervision; often displays this
	behavior
3	Exceeds Expectations: Exceeds entry-level criteria; requires minimal supervision; consistently
	displays this behavior

Occupational Competencies		Rat	ing	
		Evalua	ation	
	Minim	um Ratin	g of 2 for	EACH
Competency and Rating Criteria		Check	Rating	
	Initial	Mid	Mid	Final
	IIIILIAI	Year 1	Year 2	FIIIdi
1. Review job ticket	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
obtain job ticket	□2	□2	□2	□2
 interpret production information on the job ticket 	 □3		 3	 □3
identify the print operation requirements				
review job components				
identify substrate required size and type				
identify inks and colors required				
identify imposition configuration				
 identify printing and post-press equipment to be used 				
 identify other press and post-press requirements 				
 arrange the materials in the production area 				
2. Perform work according to all safety guidelines and requirements	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
 wear required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 	□2	□2	□ 2	□2
 operate equipment safely in the manner required for the job task 	 3		 3	 3
 operate equipment according to machine requirements 				
monitor equipment for safe operation				
review production procedure to be used				
 review safety requirements of procedure 				
 verify safety equipment and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 				
needed for production process				
 inspect tools for safety considerations 				
 inspect work area for safety considerations 				
handle chemicals in a safe manner				
follow safe work practices (i.e., lifting)				
follow equipment hazard labeling				
maintain safeguarding				

Occupational Competencies		Rat	ing	
		Evalu		
	Minim	um Ratin	_	EACH
Competency and Rating Criteria		Check	Rating	
	Initial	Mid	Mid	Final
	IIIICIGI	Year 1	Year 2	111141
3. Monitor equipment for correct operation	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
monitor product produced for specification	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2
monitor process and equipment for performance	□ 3	□ 3	□ 3	□3
 adjust process for quality and/or productivity 				
resolve problems as presented				
 replenish processing materials 				
check product for production requirements				
label pieces for compliance or non-compliance				
document quality control checks				
 products are produced to specification 				
4. Clean up work area		□ 4	□ 4	□ 1
select appropriate cleaning tools and equipment				
clean production tools/equipment	<u> </u> 2			2
 perform roller care and maintenance of inking and dampening systems 				
 store tools safely in proper location 				
store tools safely in proper location store materials in safe manner				
identify unsafe conditions and report promptly				
correct unsafe conditions				
ensure workstation is clean and clear of safety hazards				
ensure workstation is organized for efficiency				
 dispose of waste as required by the facility 				
complete cleaning documentation				
complete cleaning documentation				
5. Register print job	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
Ensure approved the proofs for the print run	2	2	□ 2	□ 2
 check the file type(s) is compatible for the printer 	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
 register the plate/screen/job image (side-to-side, up and down, tilt) 				
register the color				
register crop marks and bleed allowances				
6. Mount plate/screen (N/A for digital printing)	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□1
review job ticket for type of press run	☐ 2	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2
 review set up and safety requirements for equipment 	<u> </u>	<u> </u>		□ з
prepare plates				
verify bends				
compare copy to plate				
verify plate sequence				
 mount each plate as required on the press equipment with respect to 				
the color they represent				
adjust plates				
 tension, lateral/circumferential/tangical position 				
 apply substances to plates as needed (desensitizers, gum, etc.) 				
mount screen on material as required for color alignment				

Occupational Competencies	Rating			
	Evaluation			
	Minimum Rating of 2 for EACH			EACH
Competency and Rating Criteria	Check Rating			
	Initial	Mid	Mid	Final
	IIIILIAI	Year 1	Year 2	Fillal
7. Load substrate and ink	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
review job ticket for type of press run	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2
 follow set up and safety requirements for equipment and inks 	3	3	□ 3	3
select appropriate materials				
 handle substrate in manner to eliminate any damage 				
find grain direction with and without carton label				
jog and air substrate stock				
 set separators and detectors for weight and caliper (wire/felt, 				
watermarks, and carbonless sequence)				
set up web-to-sheet converter				
load substrate into equipment				
set up grippers and guides as required				
• install flags to count sheets during a press run				
correct any substrate problems prior to running the press				
obtain pre-mixed inks for color				
• mix ink				
measure volume for mixing chemicals for pressroom operations measure volume for mixing volume about for mixing requirements.				
mix test ink for printing using color chart for mixing requirements interpret color bars on press sheet to determine quality.				
interpret color bars on press sheet to determine quality set up inking system.				
set up inking systemestablish ink sequence				
measure durometer				
 prepare system- rollers, roller pressures 				
assemble fountain and liners				
assemble fountain and liners				
		l		

Occupational Competencies	Rating			
	Evaluation Minimum Rating of 2 for EACH			
				EACH
Competency and Rating Criteria	Check Rating			
	Initial	Mid	Mid	Final
	Initial	Year 1	Year 2	Final
8. Set up press	□ 1	□ 1	1	1
 review job ticket for type of press run 				 2
 follow equipment set up and safety requirements 		□ -	□ -	□ -
register print job	🗀 🍮			🗆 3
assemble and adjust tools and production equipment				
 verify production equipment is available for use and in working order 				
 verify production equipment is current for preventative maintenance 				
and/or calibration				
calculate any control settings needed				
 check equipment water, solutions and additives, ink, oil, air, pressure 				
levels				
load substrate and ink				
 set up feeder/roller system- shafts, roll stand, braking mechanisms, 				
rollers, web guides				
set up sheet transfer and guiding system				
 set up delivery system- roll-to-roll, sheeter, signature, inline 				
set up plate and inking systems- install blanket, cylinder alignment and				
pressures				
 set up dampening system- solutions and additives, rollers 				
set up drying system set up drying system				
document set up				
9. Verify press set up (make-ready)	□ 1	□1	□ 1	□ 1
 verify set up meets process requirements and product specifications 				
verify substrate stock		<u> </u> 2	<u> </u> 2	
• verify ink		3	3	
verify plate/screen				
verify proper web lead				
verify feeder and delivery devices				
verify dampening and inking systems				
verify dampening and maing systems verify check blankets				
verify check blankets verify registration				
 examine first piece/product or production run for visual and/or 				
dimensional specification				
adjust to ensure piece/product meets specification				
make necessary adjustments to register image position				
adjust/set color (tint value, ink hue, density, dot gain)				
adjust/set color (till value, lik flue, defisity, dot gaill) adjust impression pressure				
• rule up sheet				
appropriately sequence order of inks				
document makeready steps if required				
document makeready steps in required				
	<u>I</u>	l .	<u> </u>	

Occupational Competencies	Rating			
	Evaluation Minimum Rating of 2 for EACH			
				EACH
Competency and Rating Criteria	Check Rating			
	Initial	Mid	Mid	Final
	miciai	Year 1	Year 2	- 11101
10. Perform press operation	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
 wear the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2
follow equipment safety procedures	□ 3	□ 3	□ 3	□ 3
 attach auxiliary equipment (perforators, numberers, scorers, coaters, etc.) 				
 operate equipment safely in the manner required for the job task according to machine requirements 				
monitor equipment for safe operation while operating				
operate printing press and monitor				
operate register system				
operate feeding system				
operate delivery system				
 operate dampening system- dampening rollers 				
operate inking system				
operate drying system				
print single color or multi-color job				
 print single or multi-color, 2-sided job 				
 print color job on coated and/or uncoated substrate 				
 complete job tracking documentation 				
 store printed materials for post-press, packaging and/or distribution 				
11. Set up post-press	□1	□ 1	1	□ 1
 review job ticket for type of post-press run 	☐ 2	☐ 2	□ - □ 2	□ 1
follow set up and safety requirements for equipment				
assemble and adjust tools and production equipment	3	3	∐ 3	∐3
calculate any control settings needed				
 set production equipment parameters as required for substrate 				
registration				
 set production equipment parameters as required for substrate mechanical (jog, stitch, folding, drill hole positions) 				
document set up				
verify production equipment is available for use				
verify production equipment is in working order				
verify production equipment is current for preventative maintenance and (or calibration — mayo to a maintenance category).				
and/or calibration – move to a maintenance category				
check equipment, fluids, air, pressure levels				

Occupational Competencies	Rating			
	Evaluation			
	Minimum Rating of 2 for EAC Check Rating		EACH	
Competency and Rating Criteria				
	Initial	Mid Year 1	Mid Year 2	Final
12. Verify post-press set up (make-ready)	□ 1			□1
verify set up meets process requirements and product specifications				
verify substrate stock	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u> </u> 2	☐ 2
verify chemistry	3	∐ 3	3	3
verify registration				
verify mechanical				
examine first piece/product or production run for visual and/or				
dimensional specification				
adjust to ensure piece/product meets specification				
verify repeatability of set up				
document set up procedure for repeatability				
document set up procedure				
13. Perform post-press operation	□ 1	<u> </u>	□ 1	□ 1
 wear the required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at all times as 	□2	□2	□2	□2
required for the operation of the equipment	_ 3	_ 3	_ 3	3
operate equipment safely in the manner required for the job task				
according to machine requirements				
monitor equipment for safe operation while operating				
operate post-press cutting equipment				
operate post-press folding equipment				
operate post-press collating equipment				
operate post-press numbering equipment				
operate post-press perforating/scoring equipment				
operate post-press binding equipment				
operate post-press packaging and shrink-wrapping equipment				
operate post-press stitching equipment				
operate other finishing watch apparation for shoots in audor				
 watch operation for sheets in order watch operation for edges jogged flush 				
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				
 watch operation for edges free of white space or image/color bleed watch operation for wires closed 				
 watch operation for wires closed watch operation for perforation/scoring positions 				
adjust feeder table for different sizes, consistent feed				
 adjust reeder table for different sizes, consistent reed adjust roller gap settings and double sheet detector 				
open and close correct gates				
adjust gates for accurate folds				
adjust gates for accurate folds				

Occupational Competencies	Rating			
	Evaluation			
	Minimum Rating of 2 for EACH			
Competency and Rating Criteria	Check Rating			
	Initial	Mid	Mid	Final
	IIIILIAI	Year 1	Year 2	rillai
Competency Substitute (if you replaced a competency above, note the	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
competency and rating)	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2
	 3	3	 3	3
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Comments:				

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