Merchandising

WISCONSIN—
YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP

Youth Apprenticeship

MERCHANDISING

Merchandising youth apprentices sell merchandise to consumers. In addition, they work with merchandising displays and maintain product inventory.

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. A total of 12 occupational competencies must be learned for this occupation. Employers may substitute out one competency and should write in the competency they are adding. Where necessary, skills can be simulated. Youth apprentices must be evaluated on these competencies at least two times each year of their apprenticeship.

Competencies

- 1. Provide quality customer service
- Communicate the company's unique brand
- 3. Follow company pricing strategies and policies
- 4. Use order-fulfillment processes
- 5. Determine customer needs
- 6. Communicate product information to customers
- 7. Contribute to merchandising plans
- 8. Employ visual merchandising techniques
- 9. Maintain product inventory
- 10. Process sales transactions
- 11. Process incoming inventory
- 12. Fulfill e-commerce orders

POST-SECONDARY PATHWAY OPPORTUNITIES

There are several post-secondary pathway opportunities in this area. The following is a partial list.

- Digital Marketing
- Marketing/Sales



Merchandising

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	Guide includes a list of competencies youth
apprentices learn through mentoring and training	·
	s and School-Based or YA coordinators: This document school-based or YA coordinator on a regular basis with
the youth apprentice to record progress and plan	future steps to ensure completion of the required
competencies. Mentors, school-based/YA coordin	nator, and the apprentice sign below.
	to a
	over/Mentor
1st Evaluation (Required) Employer/Mentor Signature	2 nd Evaluation (Required) Employer/Mentor Signature
Employer/Wentor Signature	Employer/Mentor 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
1.	 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			
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 abilities 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 	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3			

	Employability Skills		Rat	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	□1 □2 □3	□ 1 □ 2 □ 3	□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		Rati	ing	
Competency and Rating Criteria	Initial	Mid Year 1	Mid Year 2	Final
 9. 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	□ 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 12 competencies, 11 must be from the list below. If necessary, employers can 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
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	behavior
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	displays this behavior

	Occupational Competencies		Rat	ing	
		Evalua	tion Min	imum Ra	ting of
	Competency and Rating Criteria	2	EACH Ch	eck Ratin	g
	Competency and Nating Criteria	Initial	Mid	Mid	Final
		IIIICIAI	Year 1	Year 2	Tillai
1.	Provide quality customer service	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
	 display a courteous, professional manner 	□ 2	□2	□2	□2
	 respond to customer questions and comments 	 3	 	 3	 3
	 adapt communication to cultural and social differences among clients 				
	use active listening				
2.	Communicate the company's unique brand	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
	 identify the company's brand standards 	□ 2	□2	□2	□ 2
	 explain why the company's products are valuable to customers 		 □3		
	 articulate how the company is different from competitors 				
	 follow the company's customer service policies 				
	 explain the company's mission and vision 				
3.	Follow company pricing strategies and policies	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
	 calculate sales discounts 	□ 2	□2	□2	□2
	calculate price changes	 3	 3	 3	 3
	apply discounts				
4.	Use order-fulfillment processes	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
	 verify contents in an order 	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2
	 compare the packing slip with the contents of an order 	_ 3	3	3	_ 3
	 process incoming merchandise 				
	 resolve problems with incoming shipments 				
	 coordinate channel management with other marketing activities 				

Occupational Competencies		Rat	ing	
	Evalua		imum Ra	ting of
			eck Ratin	_
Competency and Rating Criteria	Initial	Mid	Mid	Final
	IIIILIAI	Year 1	Year 2	rillai
5. Determine customer needs	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
ask relevant questions	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2
 determine how customer plans to use the product or service 	 	3	3	□ 3
tailor sales approach to the customer				
 determine customer's price considerations 				
 link needs to product features and benefits 				
Communicate mundust information to sustamore				
6. Communicate product information to customers	<u>□</u> 1	∐ 1	<u></u> ∐1	□1
provide clear explanations	□ 2	 2	<u> </u>	□ 2
relate information to customer needs	3	☐ 3	☐ 3	□ 3
provide accurate pricing information including payment options				
cross-sell related products answer systemer gyestions and chiestions				
answer customer questions and objections				
7. Contribute to merchandising plans	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
 assist with planning product/service lifecycle 	<u> </u>	 □2	 □2	 2
identify new ideas for product launches	□ -	□-		□- □3
contribute to product launches	3		3	3
8. Employ visual merchandising techniques	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
set up merchandise displays	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2	□ 2
place merchandise for impact	□ 3	☐ 3	□ 3	□ 3
determine on-floor assortments				
select materials for display				
use lighting to highlight products				
dismantle displays				
set up point-of-sale displays and handouts				
9. Maintain product inventory	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
review inventory reports	- 2	_ 2	_ 2	_ 2
 perform a sweep of the sales floor 		□-	□ -	□ 3
move products to "home" location				
 move backroom products to the sales floor 				
organize inventory				
check inventory accuracy				
 report inventory discrepancies, loss, and theft 				
monitor work areas for inventory loss potential				
10. Process sales transactions				
operate point of sale system		∐1	<u> 1</u>	
count cash drawer	<u>□</u> 2	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
itemize customer merchandise selection at checkout	3	□ 3	☐ 3	□ 3
process payments clean work areas				
clean work areas				

Occupational Competencies	Rating			
	Evaluation Minimum Rating of			
Competency and Rating Criteria	2 EACH Check Rating			
Competency and Nating Criteria	Initial	Mid	Mid	Final
	············	Year 1	Year 2	1
11. Process incoming inventory	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
 compare merchandise invoices to items received 	2	2	□ 2	□ 2
 receive sales floor merchandise 	☐ 3	□ 3	□ 3	□3
 attach source and anti-theft tags 				
mark merchandise price				
identify hang-tag needs				
 route stock to sales floor 				
rotate stock				
transfer stock to/from branches				
 enter product descriptions into a point of sale (POS) system 				
12. Fulfill e-commerce orders	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1	□ 1
maintain online assortment including necessary photography and copy	□ <u>1</u>		□ 1 □ 2	
explain the e-commerce platform workflow		∐ 2 □ 2		
fill online orders, including all packaging and promotional material	∐ 3	∐ 3	∐ 3	
 prepare orders for shipping 				
 review reporting as necessary and discuss performance, revenue, and 				
margin performance to ensure product profitability				
share potential process improvements				
maintain customer database within e-commerce platform				
·				
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
Comments:				

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