

BLACKSMITH

ALSO KNOWN AS:

METALSMITH

FARRIER

FORGE WORKER

METAL ARTISAN

IRONWORKER

SHAPE THE WORLD WITH HAMMER AND ANVIL.

These modern-day alchemists transform raw materials into functional art, bridging ancient traditions with contemporary craftsmanship.

KEY SKILLS

Skills which may benefit anyone considering a job as a blacksmith include:

- ✓ Design
- ✓ Physical stamina
- ✓ Problem solving
- ✓ Metalworking
- ✓ Precision

CAREER PROGRESSION

In this role, you may have the opportunity to progress to other positions. Career progression opportunities include:

- Mechanical Engineer
- Industrial Engineer
- Team Leader
- Fabrication Tradesperson

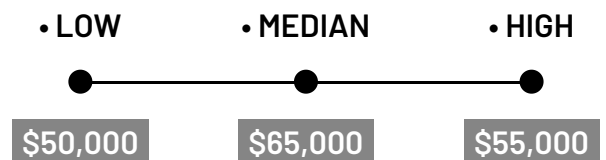
VALUES & ATTRIBUTES

Values and attributes of anyone considering a job as a blacksmith include:

- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Attention to detail
- ✓ Adaptable
- ✓ Patience
- ✓ Craftsmanship
- ✓ Artistic – “Creator”

SALARY EXPECTATION

The expected salary for a Blacksmith can vary across different areas of manufacturing and may vary as you become more experienced.



RELATED INDUSTRIES

► Aerospace and Defence ► General Manufacturing and Engineering ► Transport Equipment and Machinery

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Design
- Furnishing Skills
- Industrial Technology Skills

CORE SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Essential Mathematics
- Essential English
- Engineering Skills

JOB OVERVIEW

Blacksmiths are skilled craftspeople who forge and shape metal into various objects, from decorative pieces to functional tools and structural components. They work with a range of metals, primarily iron and steel, using heat and tools to manipulate the material into desired forms. Their craft requires a unique blend of physical strength, artistic vision, and technical knowledge.

In their daily work, blacksmiths operate furnaces, anvils, and an array of hand tools to heat, bend, cut, and join metals. They may create custom pieces for clients, repair existing metalwork, or produce items for commercial sale. The role demands attention to detail, problem-solving skills, and a deep understanding of metallurgy and design principles.

Blacksmiths contribute significantly to various industries, including construction, agriculture, and artisanal crafts. Their work can be seen in architectural elements, custom tools, restoration projects, and artistic installations. As keepers of an ancient trade, they play a crucial role in preserving traditional techniques while adapting to modern technologies and market demands.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Your role may include duties as follows:

- Heat metal in a forge until it becomes malleable
- Shape heated metal using hammers, anvils, and other tools
- Design and create custom metal objects based on client specifications
- Repair and restore metal items, including historical artifacts
- Implement safety procedures to prevent workplace accidents

HOW TO BECOME A BLACKSMITH

Becoming a blacksmith typically doesn't require formal qualifications to start, but a combination of education, apprenticeship, and hands-on experience is crucial for success in this field. Here are steps to become a blacksmith:

1. Complete high school or equivalent, focusing on subjects like metalwork, art, and physics
2. Enrol in vocational courses or workshops specialising in blacksmithing and metalworking
3. Seek an apprenticeship with an experienced blacksmith to learn the trade
4. Gain practical experience through personal projects and assisting established blacksmiths
5. Consider specialising in a particular area, such as architectural ironwork or blade smithing

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

An apprenticeship with a manufacturer is the best pathway to gain employment in this role. You can undertake the following qualifications as apprenticeships:

- Certificate II Engineering Pathways (MEM20422)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade (Blacksmithing) (MEM31922)

As an apprentice you will combine work with formal training, allowing you to gain practical skills and knowledge in a specific trade while earning a salary.

Duration: Apprenticeships typically last up to 4 years for full-time participants. Part-time apprenticeships may take longer, depending on the individual's work schedule and training progress.

Work and study combination: As an apprentice, you will work either full-time or part-time while receiving formal training from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). School-based apprenticeships may be available.

Eligibility: Generally, apprenticeships do not require any formal qualifications to enter, making them accessible to a wide range of individuals, including if you are a school leaver or someone looking to change careers. There are minimum age requirements and there may be other eligibility criteria.

Completion: On completion you will receive a nationally recognised trade qualification, showcasing your skill and experience.

Skills, qualifications, accreditations and licences

A blacksmith may choose to pursue other training or certifications, licences and tickets. Qualifications and skills may be required to progress to supervisor or team leader positions.

You could advance your career with the following qualifications:

- Certificate IV in Engineering (MEM40119)
- Diploma of Engineering – Advanced Trade (MEM50119)
- Advanced Diploma of Engineering (MEM60119)
- Diploma of Leadership and Management (BSB50420)

UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION

University education is not typically required for blacksmiths, but related degrees can provide valuable skills and knowledge, especially for those interested in combining traditional craftsmanship with modern technologies or pursuing management roles in metalworking industries.

Relevant university programs might include Bachelor of Fine Arts with a focus on metal sculpture, Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical or Materials), or Bachelor of Design. These programs can offer a deeper understanding of metallurgy, design principles, and business management, which can be valuable for blacksmiths looking to expand their practice or take on more complex projects.

Holding a degree in human resources, finance, economics, marketing or management can be helpful if you are considering taking a step into leadership or a business ownership position.