

DELTA COLLEGE
COUNSELING/ADVISING & CAREER SERVICES
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

Salary Range: \$38,130-\$112,000+ annually

Personal Interests: Working with your hands, enjoy outside work, taking risks for profit, and persuading and leading people and making decisions

Work Environment: Work is done at a main office or a field office at the construction site

Description

Construction Managers plan and direct construction projects. They may have job titles, such as constructor, construction superintendent, general superintendent, project engineer, project manager, general construction manager, or executive construction manager. Construction managers may be owners or salaried employees of a construction management or contracting firm, or may work under contract or as a salaried employee of the owner, developer, contractor, or management firm overseeing the construction project.

Construction manager is defined within the construction industry to denote a management firm, or an individual employed by such a firm, involved in management oversight of a construction project. Although they typically have no direct role in the actual construction of a structure, they do schedule and coordinate all design and construction processes including the selection, hiring, and oversight of specialty trade contractors.

Construction Managers direct and monitor the progress of construction activities at all times through other construction supervisors. This includes the delivery and use of materials, tools, and equipment; the quality of construction; worker productivity and safety. They are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits and licenses and, depending upon the contractual arrangements, direct or monitor compliance with building and safety codes and other regulations. They may have several subordinates, such as

assistant managers or superintendents, field engineers, or crew supervisors, reporting to them.

Construction Managers regularly review engineering and architectural drawings and specifications to monitor progress and ensure compliance with plans and specifications. They track and control construction costs to avoid cost overruns. Based upon direct observation and reports by subordinate supervisors, managers may prepare daily reports of progress and requirements for labor, material, and machinery and equipment at the construction site. They meet regularly with owners, trade contractors, architects, and other design professionals to monitor and coordinate all phases of the construction project.

Working Conditions

Construction managers work out of a main office from which the overall construction project is monitored, or out of a field office at the construction site. Management decisions regarding daily construction activities are usually made at the job site. Managers usually travel when the construction site is in another state or when they are responsible for activities at two or more sites. Management of overseas construction projects usually entails temporary residence in another country.

Construction managers must be “on-call,” often 24 hours a day, to deal with bad weather or emergencies at the site. Most work more than a standard 40-hour week because construction may proceed around-the-clock.

Training, Other Qualifications

Often, persons advance to construction management positions after having substantial experience as construction craft workers, or after having worked as construction supervisors or as owners of independent specialty contracting firms overseeing workers in one or more construction trades. However, more and more employers, particularly large construction firms, hire individuals who combine work experience with a Bachelor degree in construction or building science or construction management. Graduates from 4-year degree programs are usually hired as assistants to project managers, field engineers, schedulers, or cost estimators.

An Associate degree can be obtained from many 2-year colleges throughout the country. The Delta College Construction Management program is designed to acquaint you with various materials, procedures, types of fabrication, and methods of resolution. Technical problem solving is also stressed. The business components of this program teach basic business structure and practices. Such training is invaluable in the start-up and maintenance of a profitable construction business. Other avenues of employment can be sought in construction supervision, material representation, and material management and control. Practical industry experience is very important, whether through internships, cooperative education programs, or tenure in the industry.

Job Outlook

Employment of construction managers is expected to increase about as fast as the average for all occupations through 2014, as the level of complexity of construction activity continues to grow.

Prospects in construction management, engineering and architectural services, and construction contracting firms should be best for persons who have a Bachelor or higher degree in construction science, construction management, or construction engineering as well as practical experience working in construction. Employers prefer applicants with previous construction work experience that can combine a strong background in building technology with proven supervisory or managerial skills.

Earnings

Median annual earnings of construction managers in May 2004 were \$69,870. The middle 50 percent earned between \$53,430 and \$92,350. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$42,120, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$126,330. According to the May 2006 wage estimates by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, the average annual earnings for Construction Managers in Michigan were \$92,670.

Related Occupations

Architects, civil engineers, construction supervisors, cost engineers, cost estimators, real estate developers, and landscape engineers.

ConstructionManagementprofile.doc SC/9/07
Sources: Occupational Outlook Handbook, The Occupational Information Network, Delta College Catalog, and Michigan Department of Career Development.

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Frankenmuth, Birch Run, Reese & Vassar: (989) 758-3400, Ext. 9072
<http://www.delta.edu/careercenter>

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