

# A Career in Construction Management



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Careers in  
Construction



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## What Construction Managers Do

Construction managers plan, coordinate, budget, and supervise construction projects from inception to completion. They must meet specific hiring needs that combine critical thinking, technical skills, academic knowledge and leadership to:

- Oversee and allocate resources
- Monitor compliance with building and safety codes, and other regulations
- Interpret and explain contracts and technical information to other professionals
- Report work progress and budget matters to clients
- Prepare cost estimates, budgets, and work timetables
- Select, schedule, and coordinate subcontractor activities

Construction manager's work closely with other building specialists, such as architects, civil engineers, and a variety of trade workers, including stonemasons, plumbers, electricians, and carpenters. Depending on the project, construction managers may interact with lawyers and government officials. To maximize efficiency and productivity, construction managers often perform the tasks of a cost estimator.

## Work Environment

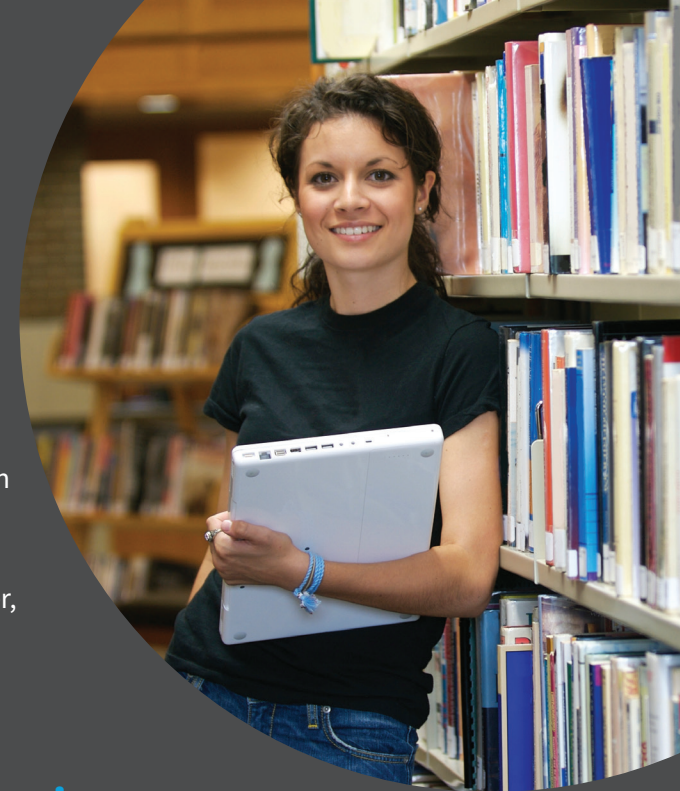
Most construction manager's work out of a field office located at the construction site, but can work in a more traditional office setting. The need to meet deadlines and respond to emergencies requires flexibility within the work environment.



## How to Become a Construction Manager/Education

Large construction firms increasingly prefer candidates with both construction experience and a bachelor's degree in a construction-related field. Students typically obtain a bachelor's degree in construction science, construction management, architecture, or engineering.

A few universities offer master's degree programs in construction management. There are also a number of 2-year colleges that offer associate degrees in construction management or construction technology. Those with a high school diploma and several years of relevant work experience may qualify to become a construction manager, although most will do so primarily as self-employed general contractors.



## Work Experience

Practical construction experience is important to reduce the need for initial on-the-job training. Internships, cooperative education programs, and previous work in the construction industry can provide that experience.

## Job Outlook

The national average pay for a construction manager in 2023 was \$104,900 per year. Employment of construction managers is projected to grow 9 percent from 2023 to 2033, much faster than the average for all occupations.

Construction processes and building technology are becoming more complex and require greater oversight, thus spurring demand for specialized management personnel even as technology increases productivity of construction managers.



## Connecting to Local Home Builders Associations Builds Practical Experience

The NAHB Student Chapters program offers students a unique out-of-classroom experience with the opportunity to build connections to the residential construction industry. Through networking with local building professionals at more than 700 local home builder associations across the country, students gain direct access to internships and jobs where they develop leadership skills and learn more about their chosen career. Establishing a Student Chapter at your school is easy and certainly should be on your list for the upcoming academic year.



## National Housing Endowment

The National Housing Endowment, the philanthropic arm of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

dedicated to helping the housing industry develop more effective approaches to home building, enhancing education and training for future generations of leaders in residential construction and increasing the body of knowledge on housing issues. It does so by supporting innovative and effective programs that further Education, Training and Research in the residential construction industry.



## About National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)

NAHB is a Washington-based trade association representing more than 140,000 members involved in home building, remodeling, multifamily construction, property management, subcontracting, design, housing finance, building product manufacturing and other aspects of residential and light commercial construction. NAHB is affiliated with more than 700 state and local home builders associations around the country. NAHB's builder members will construct about 80 percent of the new housing units projected for this year.



[www.nahb.org](http://www.nahb.org)