

# Careers In Construction Management

## What Is Construction Management?

Traditionally, construction involves the three-party, two-relationship model. The first is the owner designer relationship, in which the project owner appoints the designer who is usually an architect or an engineer, to plan and design the project. The second commences after the design is ready and is known as the owner contractor relationship. Here, the contractor is given the project to realize, based on his quotation of cost. Lately however, this model has undergone a radical change. The recent trend is to rely on construction management.

Construction managers divide all the construction activities into stages, budgeting time to meet construction deadlines. They evaluate the most cost-effective schedules for completion and are responsible for ensuring that all the work is completed on time.

## Training And Education

Construction Management is also the study of construction, with regard to the managerial and technological aspects like construction management, construction science and construction risk. The most common and widely recognized format for construction management education is a baccalaureate or graduate degree. Other education may relate to on-the-job training and apprenticeship and higher education.

High school students who want to opt for a career in construction management, should study Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics and Accounting. Many colleges and universities offer master's degrees in construction management and construction science. Someone who has a bachelor's degree in an unrelated field can also get a master's degree in construction management. A student can obtain a master's degree in finance or business administration, to improve career prospects. There are also industry associated sponsored training programs and two year dedicated programs.

## Job Prospects

Excellent construction management employment opportunities are available, since the construction boom requires a number of qualified individuals. Also, the increasing complexity of construction projects is creating extra demand for these managers. New technology and laws, setting standards for materials, safety and environmental issues have complicated the construction process. This has raised the demand for trained managers in turn. Opportunities for advancement may vary, depending on the person's performance and the size and type of the company. The person may also become an independent consultant, an expert witness, a dispute arbitrator or start their own construction management firm.

## Conclusion

Construction managers must be flexible and effective. They must be good decision takers and possess the ability to well under pressure or with unexpected delays. A flair for simultaneous activity coordination, analysis and problem solving is necessary. Good communication skills and knowledge of the Spanish language are important. Construction managers have to be available "on call" at all times, to deal with onsite emergencies. Be prepared to work much more than a 40-hour week to meet established construction deadlines. The work is not dangerous, but construction managers must be cautious when on the construction site.

If you are an outdoor person, and are good with math and organization, then the field of construction management can be very satisfying and lucrative career choice.

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## About the Author

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