



Our state-of-the-art apprentice training – 15 different trades and crafts at 135 training centers – is as diverse as the students we are recruiting into our programs.

To find out more about how apprenticeship works and the programs in your area, go to our website: www.buildingC3.com

Frequently asked questions about construction careers

What are the requirements for entering a construction career?

You must be 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or GED. It's also advisable to hold a valid driver's license and a working vehicle because you'll need to travel to the different worksites, which are often not convenient to public transit.

Also, the construction industry is rapidly changing as workers increasingly use technologically advanced construction methods. Therefore many skilled crafts require good knowledge of and passing grades in math—including algebra.

What qualities make up a successful construction worker?

Every construction worker will tell you—the most important quality for success in the industry is having a good attitude. You must get to work on time every day, often at 6:00 or 6:30 in the morning, enjoy working outdoors, be able to take directions and work well on a team. You should not be afraid to get dirty. If you like to work with your hands and see the results of your work at the end of the day, construction may be a great career.

What are the opportunities for advancement?

Construction workers can start with nothing more than an interest in the industry and they can earn \$10-15/hour (plus benefits). By working and completing class hours at the apprenticeship program, you'll get a raise every six months. By the time you complete your 3-5 year apprenticeship program, you'll become a "journeyman" in your craft, and earn full scale—as much as \$28-36/hour.

Once you're a journeyman, you can work anywhere in the country. You can also move into other positions in the construction industry: managing the work as a foreman to superintendent, opening your own business and inspecting the buildings.

What about going to college?

Most apprenticeship programs offer community college credits. After completing your apprenticeship program, you may only need a few classes in subjects like English or History to get an A.A. degree, and then you can go on to get your bachelors degree.

What about benefits?

In addition to earning a good salary, you'll quickly be eligible for health care and pension benefits covered through a special type of labor-management plan known as a Taft-Hartley plan. As a union member, you may work for different employers at several construction sites, but your benefits are "portable," meaning that they carry with you wherever you work.

Okay, sounds great. How do we get started?

First, go to our website: www.buildingc3.com and look around. We've included information about what each building trades craft does, what the qualifications and requirements needed are to enter each program, and we list the apprenticeship programs across the state by region.

You may want to see if there's a pre-apprenticeship program in your area. Unlike apprenticeship programs, these programs are unpaid, however they may be an important investment of six to eight weeks time to make sure this is the right career choice for you. They offer an overview of each trade, qualifications and entry requirements, a review of health and safety on the job, and the "soft skills" you need to be successful in the career. Some good pre-apprenticeship programs are listed on the website as well.

For more information:
www.buildingc3.com



Career opportunities in **CONSTRUCTION:** A bright future for your kids



A guide for parents, teachers, counselors



Career opportunities in construction: A bright future for your kids



State Building and
Construction Trades
Council of California
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Dear Parents, Teachers & Counselors:

Do you have bright, talented students who are not college bound? You would hate to see their talent go to waste in low-wage, unskilled jobs, but you fear that path may be their only choice once they graduate from high school.

Here's another option: a career in the construction industry. California is slated to build at least \$36 billion worth of construction projects in the next 8-10 years and the demand for new skilled workers has never been higher.

Construction is an earn-while-you-learn industry. Instead of paying to attend a trade institute like culinary school, a cosmetology program or even college, our programs pay the students to work while they attend classes.

New construction workers enter the industry as apprentices. They'll earn a starting wage of \$10-15 an hour (plus benefits), work during the day and attend our state-of-the-art apprenticeship programs on nights or weekends. Many of these programs offer college credits, which is why we call it "Construction U."

The only experience young people need to enter is the knowledge that they enjoy working with their hands, working outside, working hard, and seeing their accomplishments at the end of the day. Some of the crafts require a passing grade in math and algebra.

For graduates of "Construction U," the opportunities are limitless. To learn more about our certified apprenticeship programs please visit our website at www.buildingc3.com.

Sincerely,

Bob Balgenorth, *President*
State Building and Construction Trades Council of California



Apprenticeship opportunities in various skilled trades and crafts are available to high school graduates:
Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration, Boilermakers, Bricklayers, Carpenters, Cement Masons, Electricians, Elevator Constructors, Ironworkers, Laborers, Operating Engineers, Painters, Plumbers, Roofers, Sheet Metal Workers and Teamsters.

Earn While You Learn

Apprentices are paid a top-notch wage, increasing with each year of training. Health care and pension benefits are also part of the apprenticeship compensation package.



A Partnership With Community Colleges

Across California there are 135 training centers for 15 different construction trades and crafts. Working hand-in-hand with local colleges, most apprentice programs provide college credits for classes taken.



A Solid High School Education is Essential

High school graduation or equivalent is a requirement for entering the apprenticeship career path. Working with interested students early in the high school experience helps students stay focused on math and the other skills necessary for a successful construction industry career.



Opportunity for All

Our training programs reflect the face of the communities where we live and work. A strict anti-discrimination policy, covering all aspects of our apprenticeship, has helped increase the number of minority and female students enrolled in our programs.



Lifelong Education and Training

Our training centers also provide an excellent curriculum, designed to keep our journey level professionals up-to-date in the latest industry methods and technologies. Optional classes and training help many graduates go on to become managers, contractors, and business owners.

