

CONSTRUCTION SCIENCE/MANAGEMENT

What can I do with this major?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

CONSTRUCTION/OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

Construction management:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Institutional
- Industrial
- Heavy-highway
- Bridges and roads
- Agricultural
- Paving and excavation
- Renovation and remodeling
- Utility
- Mechanical
- Electrical

Business management:

- Human resources
- Finance and accounting
- Materials and equipment
- Estimation and budgeting
- Safety
- Scheduling

Cost control

Trade contracts

Technical documentation:

- Engineering
- Architectural

Compliance:

- Legal requirements
- Building and safety codes

Specialty trade contracting:

- Plumbing
- Heating and air-conditioning
- Electrical

Consulting

Construction management or contracting firms

Specialty trade contractors:

- Plumbing, heating, air-conditioning, electrical
- Home builders
- Construction industry
- Building materials industry
- Real estate developers
- Engineering and architectural firms
- Consulting firms
- Self-employment/contract work
- Local government
- Educational institutions
- Large corporations

Gain practical, technical experience in the construction industry through summer jobs and internships.

Learn to work well with a wide variety of people as construction managers must communicate effectively and build relationships with engineers, architects, skilled tradespeople, homeowners, and more.

Develop the ability to see the big picture but also be detail-oriented to be successful with project management. Skills in teamwork, leadership, time management, and decision-making are also important.

Be prepared to work outside as you may spend significant amounts of time at a work site.

Get experience with relevant technology including CAD, GPS, GIS, sensors, electronic information transfer, and estimation software.

Join relevant student organizations and seek leadership positions.

Become a good problem solver and develop tolerance for unexpected changes or problems, e.g. weather problems or unforeseen delays.

Be willing to start as an assistant to an experienced construction manager.

Research certification programs offered by the American Institute of Constructors and the Construction Management Association of America.

Construction Science/Management degrees prepare students for a wide variety of positions in the construction industry. Research opportunities to find a good fit for your interests and skills.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

RELATED FIELDS

Building and code inspection
Municipal contracts management
Green building consulting
Contract administration
Purchasing
Product sales

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Be willing to work outdoors. This field requires knowledge of engineering, construction, and business.
- Consider a minor in business and supplement curriculum with classes in accounting, finance, law, and sustainability.
- Prepare to be possibly work on-call 24 hours a day to handle emergencies, deal with weather problems, or manage unforeseen delays. Some travel may be required depending on the size and scope of the project.
- Often times construction managers will have multiple subordinates and assistants. Gain leadership skills to prepare to guide colleagues and workers.
- Important skills for this field include flexibility and the ability to work in a fast-paced environment. Problem-solving and multitasking capabilities are also valued.
- Many construction professionals have prior work experience as tradesmen, carpenters, masons, plumbers, or electricians.
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