

Building Technology

Carpenters erect wood and light-gauge steel framework in buildings; construct forms for concrete; and install all types of floor coverings, ceilings, paneling, trim, and interior systems. They must be very skillful as “finish” work is visible and often involves expensive materials. Some carpenters construct docks and work with large timbers and drive piles to support the foundations of buildings and bridges. All carpenters use a wide variety of hand- and power- tools.

Building Technicians perform surveys for construction-site layout, prepare and interpret blueprints and drawings for residential or commercial construction projects, and apply appropriate building codes. They also assist in the layout and development of projects. Building Technicians utilize the principles of mathematics and physics, basic design analysis and building layout knowledge combined with management and other technical skills.

Northern Michigan University focuses on hands-on lectures and laboratory practice rather than a pure theoretical education.

Skills and Competencies

Students considering a career in the Building Technology Field should consider that physical fitness is as important as good eye-hand coordination and a good sense of balance. Previous experience of carpentry, shop, mechanical drawing and general mathematics is desirable. The job has a potential risk of injury because it requires one to handle sharp or rough materials and power equipment.

Keep in mind that carpenters and building technicians spend a great amount of time outdoors. A carpenter has to be precise and analytical, capable of working without supervision, and able to adapt to a variety of situations.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education courses and graduation requirements.

Core

- CN107 Construction Documents (3 cr.)
- CN110 Construction Processes (2 cr.)
- CN153 Introduction to Construction Design (3 cr.)
- CN156 Construction Systems and Methods (3 cr.)
- CN158 Concrete and Masonry (2 cr.)
- CN251 Construction Field Operations (3 cr.)
- CN252 Codes and Inspection (3 cr.)
- CN254 Construction Survey and Layout (3 cr.)
- CN278 Mechanical, Electrical & Plumbing Systems (3 cr.)
- CN283 Construction Estimating (3 cr.)

Other required courses

- MA115 Precalculus (4 cr.)
- MKT230 Introduction to Marketing (4 cr.)

General Electives (14 cr.)

Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

Career Development

You should begin the resume-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your resume and look for job openings. Becoming involved in an industry-related internship helps develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

You are encouraged to join Northern Michigan Constructors (NMC), a student group that provides opportunities for community service, hands-on learning and leadership.

Additional Considerations

Building Technology is an Associate of Applied Science degree which requires 63 credits, approximately four semesters.

A student can ladder this degree into the construction management baccalaureate degree program, meaning that after completion of the 63 credit Associates degree, you can then use the credits toward a 124 credit baccalaureate degree. This allows a great opportunity to use your new degree in a work setting, while continuing on in school for another degree!

Job Outlook

Building technology and carpentry are expected to grow at an average rate of 20%. The average worker makes about \$19 an hour, with the top earners pulling in more than \$34 an hour. As with most careers, location is a major factor in earning potential. Be aware that bad weather can sometimes hinder your ability to work and possibly cause you to earn less.

Potential Careers

NMU's Building Technology Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

- Architectural Detailer
- Assistant Estimator
- Building Inspector
- Building Maintenance Technician
- Building Material Sales Person
- Carpenter
- Carpenter Apprentice
- Cement Finisher
- Concrete Former and Finisher
- Construction Foreman
- Expeditors
- Infrastructure Field Technician
- Materials Tester
- Reinforced Concrete Detailer
- Structural Drafter
- Surveyor

Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:
Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
103 Jacobetti Complex
906-227-2283
www.nmu.edu/acac

Department of Technology and Occupational
101 Jacobetti Complex
906-227-2190
www.nmu.edu/tos

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major Contact:
Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Internet Resource Links:
www.careers.org
www.bls.gov

For Career Information with National Organizations:
www.abc.org -Associate Builders and Contractors
www.agc.org -Assoc. General Contractors of Am.
www.necarpenters.org/ubc -United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America
www.acce-hq.org -American Council for Construction Education



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
2021



What to do with
a major in...

Building Technology

Associate's Degree

