

# Construction Management

Do you like building things? Do you enjoy working with your hands? Why not combine these preferences and do what you like for a living? The Construction Management major may be the key.

Construction Managers coordinate all phases of building construction including: estimating, scheduling, writing contracts, purchasing materials, and working with subcontractors and material suppliers to ensure the job gets done on time and within budget. Graduates may begin as project managers, field engineers, estimators, assistant project managers, superintendents, or one of many other employment positions.

Students attracted to construction management enjoy seeing a project through from beginning to end. They enjoy being involved in all aspects of construction including: maintaining a safe and healthy work environment, setting up accounts for labor and material costs, and determining what is the most cost effective plan and schedule.

## Skills and Competencies

Experience is highly encouraged and may be gained through summer work, cooperative education, and internship programs through NMU. New graduates with Bachelor of Science degrees begin employment with construction firms at entry level as assistant estimators, assistant schedulers, and assistant project managers. A construction manager must be decisive and adaptable with excellent organizational skills, have the ability to analyze and solve problems, visualize completed projects, coordinate many details, and work on more than one aspect of construction at the same time. They must have good leadership skills, and the ability to communicate effectively with a variety of professionals, from the skilled trade workers to the chief executives. They must also be able to work under pressure, especially when faced with unexpected delays.

## 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 (2 cr.)
CN158	Concrete (2 cr.)
CN251	Construction Field Operations (3 cr.)
CN252	Codes and Inspection (3 cr.)
CN254	Construction Survey and Layout (3 cr.)
CN278	Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Systems (3cr.)
CN283	Construction Estimating (3 cr.)
CN353	Soils and Foundations (3 cr.)
CN357	Legal Aspects of Construction (3 cr.)
CN369	Construction. Economics & Standard Practices (3 cr.)
CN372	Advanced Design and Conventions (3 cr.)
CN445	Property Development (3 cr.)
CN450	Project Control (3 cr.)
CN455	Construction Safety (3 cr.)
CN459	Construction Management (3 cr.)
CN489	Graduation Assessment for CN Majors (0 cr.)

### Other Required Courses

ACT230	Principles of Accounting I (4 cr.)
MA115	Precalculus (4 cr.)
MET211	Mechanics-Statics (4 cr.)
MKT230	Introduction to Marketing (4 cr.)

Detailed course descriptions can be found at [www.nmu.edu/bulletin](http://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 jobs related to your field. In the meantime, the more hands-on experience you have, the better the chances are that you will find a job. Becoming involved in a professional related internship is a way to 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.

## Additional Considerations

Going into your own business requires working capital plus knowledge of legal and contractual issues, building codes, construction standards, safety requirements, functional design, and building a reputation for hard work.

Some construction career specialties may require more education. Constructor's licenses are required in many states and municipalities. Check the regulations where you plan to work. You should stay informed of improved construction materials and technologies as well as changes in both state and federal regulations regarding safety, environment, and employment.

## Job Outlook

Median annual pay for Construction Managers is over \$83,000. Salaries are contingent upon geographic location and individual work experience. The industry average wage ranges from \$30,000 to \$55,000. There is a projected 17% growth rate for the Construction Management positions, which is faster than average growth. Career placement has been consistently well over 95% for graduates.

# Potential Careers

NMU's Construction Management Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Assistant Project Managers

Construction Supervisors

Electrical Contractors

Estimators

Field Engineers

Heating and Air Conditioning

Plumbing

Project Coordinator

Project Managers

Scheduler

Superintendents

# 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](http://www.nmu.edu/acac)

Technology and Occupational Sciences  
101 Jacobetti Complex  
906-227-2190  
[www.nmu.edu/tos](http://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](http://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](http://www.nmu.edu/cse)

Northern Michigan Constructors (NMC)  
<http://myweb.nmu.edu/~nmc>  
[constructorsclub@gmail.com](mailto:constructorsclub@gmail.com)

Internet Resource Links:  
[www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

For Career Information with National Organizations:

[www.aicnet.org](http://www.aicnet.org) -Am. Institute of Constructors  
[www.agc.org](http://www.agc.org) -Associated General Contractors of America  
[www.cmaanet.org](http://www.cmaanet.org) -Construction Management Association of America



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

The Academic & Career Advisement Center  
2020



What to do with  
a major in...

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