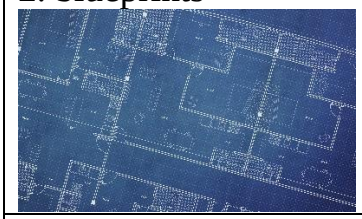
TYPES OF JOBS IN CONSTRUCTION

8.1. Vocabulary

Ex. 1. *Match the halves to make collocations.*

1. special	a. of
2. in charge	b. the skills
3. hands-on	c. for overseeing
4. possess	d. labor
5. responsible	e. licensure

Ex. 2. *Match the words to their definitions.*

1. HVAC	a. a skilled worker who specializes in a particular trade or craft
2. blueprints 	b. detailed plans or drawings that show how something will be built or made
3. plumbing	c. a period of training under a skilled worker to learn a trade or craft
4. laborer	d. the system of pipes and fixtures in a building that carries water and removes waste
5. carpenter	e. heating, ventilation, and air conditioning; the systems used to control temperature and air quality in buildings
6. apprenticeship	f. a skilled worker who has completed an apprenticeship and is employed by someone else
7. journeyman	g. a permit or certification that allows someone to legally perform a specific job or task
8. special licensure	h. a person who makes and repairs wooden structures and objects
9. tradesman	i. a person who does physical work, especially with their hands

Ex. 3. *Complete the sentences with the following words:*

overseeing, skills, blueprints, tradesman, licensure, in, apprenticeship

1. To work as a nurse in this hospital, you need a special _____(1).

2. My neighbor works as a _____(2) and fixes cars for a living.

3. In order to become a chef, you must possess the _____(3) to cook delicious food.

4. John completed an _____(4) program to become an electrician.

5. She's doing a summer internship at a law firm to gain experience.

6. Tom is _____(5) charge of organizing the company's annual picnic.

7. The manager is responsible for _____(6) the construction project and ensuring it is completed on time.

8. The architect showed me the _____(7) for the new building they are designing.

8.2. Reading

Ex. 1. *Read the text.*

8 Different Types of Jobs in Construction (Career Opportunities)

Construction is an exciting field with all kinds of opportunities for those who possess the skills. From managing projects to doing hands-on labor, the construction industry allows workers to earn a living while making improvements to the community. Here is a look at some of the best jobs in construction.

1. Project Manager

A project manager in construction is the person or group of people responsible for overseeing the completion of a project from start to finish. Construction is a multifaceted industry with many moving pieces involved in the competition of a particular building or development.

Therefore, there is always a need for skilled project managers who are able to oversee all the labor and coordinate the necessary elements.

There are no formal educational requirements for becoming a project manager. But most have a background in construction and seek a promotion to project manager when an opportunity arises. Those looking to help their career advance faster can obtain a certificate in construction project management from an established institution of higher learning, although it's not required.

The duties of a construction project manager include budgeting, collaborating with engineers, architects, laborers, and decision-makers, creating a work timeline and ensuring it is followed, hiring and supervising employees, managing risk, and responding to complaints or feedback. Construction project managers are needed at almost any construction site. However, you often need relationships with key decision-makers or referrals from trusted sources to get the job.

2. Civil Engineer

Civil engineers are responsible for designing and building infrastructure projects in both the public and private sectors, including construction. They are often responsible for constructing buildings, highways, bridges, tunnels, dams, and other necessary facilities. So, they can fulfill a number of different roles within the construction industry.

Civil engineers must obtain at least a bachelor's degree in civil engineering or a more specific field of study. Some higher-level senior management positions also require a graduate degree. Plus, those who offer services directly to the public may be required to obtain special licensure.

Civil engineers are responsible for developing, planning, and overseeing large construction projects. They create plans using computer software and work with the rest of the team including project managers, contractors, architects, and laborers to bring their designs to life. Civil engineers can find work in both the public and private sectors, working for construction companies to develop buildings or working with municipalities to build highways, bridges, tunnels, and other infrastructure projects.

3. General Contractor

A general contractor is the head construction manager in charge of all the other laborers and subcontractors. A general contractor has a similar role to a project manager, although they are typically more hands-on with the actual construction work and less involved in the planning and budgeting.

A good general contractor is needed at any construction site to coordinate all the other specialists and workers who are carrying out their own duties.

General contractors must have at least a high school diploma or GED, although a bachelor's degree in construction is recommended. Most states require general contractors to obtain a license and register with the local government to operate legally. They must also obtain the proper insurance for their business and workers, including general liability and workers comp policies.

General contractors as tasked with creating a construction timeline, managing workers and subcontractors, doing quality control, ordering supplies and materials, renting equipment and handling any other big picture tasks related to the project. Some general contractors will perform some of the labor themselves, while others will simply oversee the other workers. But general contractors are the point of contact for other key stakeholders when it comes to planning and managing the actual labor.

4. Plumber

Plumbers are vital to the success of any construction project. They are specialists who deal with the installation and maintenance of the systems used for water, gas, and sewage. While not always the most glamorous job, plumbers are highly in demand on construction sites and can be handsomely compensated for their efforts.

Plumbers do not need a college degree, but they typically need at least a high school diploma or GED. They must also complete an apprenticeship program to learn the trade and many states also require that plumbers be licensed. Beyond licensure, plumbers are also able to earn certification in more advanced disciplines to increase their earning potential.

Plumbers are tasked with installing, maintaining, and repairing pipes, valves, fittings, and drainage systems. They must also possess a strong knowledge of building codes and safety procedures to ensure that the building is safe for residents and visitors. Plumbers can find work in residential, commercial, or industrial construction projects.

5. Carpenter

Carpenters are another important category of specialists that are highly in demand in the construction industry. A carpenter is a skilled tradesman who engages in the construction, cutting, shaping, and installation of wood frames and other building materials. This skill is needed in many different aspects of construction, from erecting doors and windows to installing cabinets

Carpenters also don’t need a college degree but typically do need at least a high school diploma or GED. Most carpenters learn on the job through apprenticeship programs or through vocational training at accredited trade schools. Apprentice programs typically last three to four years and teach students the skills they need to work on their own.

Some states require formal licensure while others require that carpenters obtain a contractor license if they plan on working on larger scale projects.

On a construction project, carpenters are tasked with installing the foundation, floors, walls, ceilings, and roof while also repairing, finishing, and maintaining any other wooden structures in the building. Carpenters typically work in residential or commercial construction, but they can also find employment as cabinet makers, furniture makers, or general craftsmen, as well.

6. Electrician

Electricians are another group of tradespeople often found on a construction site. These skilled professionals specialize in designing, installing, and maintaining the electrical wiring of a building. The scope of their work includes not only the lighting but the HVAC, security, and computer systems of a building as well.

No college is required for an electrician, but they also must complete high school or obtain a GED. Like most trades, electricians learn their craft through apprenticeship programs. Many states require that electricians be licensed and registered with the local government to perform electrical work on a construction site or in a building.

Electricians are responsible for installing and repairing electrical wiring, diagnosing any electrical problems, conducting tests, using power tools, and staying up to date with local building codes to ensure safety. They have a complex and important job that is vital in a number of contexts. Electricians typically find work on residential or commercial construction sites or by working on local power and telecommunication systems.

There are also several stages that electricians can progress through to advance their careers. First, you will start out as an apprentice, then, after a few years of experience, you can move on to become a journeyman electrician, who is capable of working without direct supervision. After that, if you so choose, you can advance to become a master electrician and run your own business.

7. Building Inspector

A building inspector is an individual employed by the local government who is tasked with ensuring that a construction project meets all the necessary safety standards and building codes.

They will look at all the work performed by the various contractors and tradesmen and make sure that it was completed properly and that the building is safe for residents and visitors. If the building inspector discovers a problem, he or she has the right to shut the project down or halt construction until the necessary issues have been addressed.

Building inspectors aren’t always required to obtain a college degree, although it’s often recommended. But they are required to obtain certification or licensure as required by the state. Building inspectors are employed by the local city or township government, not the developer of the construction project.

Their responsibilities include staying up to date on all local regulations and building codes, inspecting important structures and systems within a building including the electrical wiring, HVAC system, roof, siding,

plumbing, and foundation, reviewing blueprints, checking smoke detectors, sprinklers, and other safety features and visiting a construction site periodically throughout the building process.

8. Architect

An architect is a person responsible for designing, planning, and overseeing the construction of buildings. Similar to a civil engineer, an architect will create a computerized rendering of a building design and work alongside the rest of the construction team to bring it to life. The difference between the two professions is that an architect is more focused on the conceptual and creative elements of a building design, whereas civil engineers are more focused on the functional aspects.

Architects are required to obtain at least a bachelor's degree in architecture. Some competitive firms also require a master's degree for senior-level positions. Some states require licensure beyond an accredited degree and registration with the local architectural board.

The primary duties of an architect are to plan and design the blueprints of a building, meet with clients to determine their needs, develop concepts, do research and implement data into their building designs, draft proposals, stay within budgeting requirements and work with other team members and key decision-makers to oversee the completion of a project.

Architects typically work for established firms, although with enough experience many go on to start their own independent firms. The firm will usually be hired by a particular developer or municipality to design a building.

Ex. 2. *Choose the correct answer.*

1. What is the construction industry?

a) A field with no job opportunities

b) A field with limited job opportunities

c) A field with all kinds of opportunities

d) A field with only manual labor jobs

2. Who is responsible for overseeing the completion of a project from start to finish?

a) Civil Engineer

b) General Contractor

c) Plumber

d) Project Manager

3. What are the duties of a construction project manager?

a) Creating a work timeline and ensuring it is followed

b) Hiring and supervising employees

c) Managing risk

d) All of the above

4. What is the educational requirement for becoming a project manager?

a) Bachelor's degree in construction

b) Certificate in construction project management

c) No formal educational requirement

d) Graduate degree in civil engineering

5. What is the role of a civil engineer in the construction industry?

a) Overseeing all the labor and coordinating the necessary elements

b) Designing and building infrastructure projects

c) Head construction manager in charge of all the other laborers and subcontractors

d) Installing and maintaining pipes, valves, fittings, and drainage systems

6. What is the minimum educational requirement for a civil engineer?

a) High school diploma or GED

b) Bachelor's degree in civil engineering or a more specific field of study

c) Graduate degree in civil engineering

d) No formal educational requirement

7. What is the role of a general contractor in the construction industry?

a) Overseeing all the labor and coordinating the necessary elements

b) Designing and building infrastructure projects

c) Head construction manager in charge of all the other laborers and subcontractors

d) Installing and maintaining pipes, valves, fittings, and drainage systems

8. What is the educational requirement for becoming a general contractor?

a) Bachelor's degree in construction

b) Certificate in construction project management

c) High school diploma or GED

d) No formal educational requirement

9. What is the role of a plumber in the construction industry?

a) Overseeing all the labor and coordinating the necessary elements

b) Designing and building infrastructure projects

c) Head construction manager in charge of all the other laborers and subcontractors

d) Installing and maintaining pipes, valves, fittings, and drainage systems

10. What is the educational requirement for becoming a plumber?

a) Bachelor's degree in construction

b) Certificate in construction project management

c) High school diploma or GED

d) No formal educational requirement

Ex. 3. *Answer the questions.*

1. What is a carpenter and what are their responsibilities on a construction site?

2. How do individuals become carpenters, and what kind of training or education is required?

3. Are formal licensure requirements for carpenters the same in all states?

4. What is an electrician, and what is the scope of their work on a construction site?

5. What kind of training or education is required to become an electrician, and how can they advance their careers?

6. What is a building inspector, and what are their responsibilities on a construction site?

7. Do building inspectors need to obtain a college degree, and who employs them?

8. What is an architect, and how does their role differ from that of a civil engineer?

9. What kind of education or licensure is required to become an architect?

10. Who typically hires architects to design buildings?