

BX Career Exploration

With the help of regional periodicals and input from BX members - experts working directly in the industry - information regarding salary, benefits, required education and information regarding the outlook for the career in Central Ohio has been compiled.

Professional Career Path

Accountant

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, math, statistics, writing, communication and computer courses.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Business, accounting, finance and economics.
- **Training Options:** Bachelor's degree or graduate school. Most states require Certified Public Accountant (CPA) students to complete at least 150 undergraduate hours before becoming eligible for the CPA exam.
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$19.41
- **Average Starting Salary:** \$40,370
- **Median Salary Range:** \$50,340 - \$86,130
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation and sick time, cellular phone and corporate memberships.
- **Promotion Potential:** Beginning accountants can advance to top jobs such as chief financial officer, treasurer and controller. They could also become a chief executive officer or corporation president.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Accountants prepare, analyze and verify financial reports and taxes, and monitor systems that furnish this information to managers of business organizations.

Administrative Professional

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, English, math, government, civics, spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Keyboarding, computer courses, bookkeeping and business knowledge of construction.
- **Training Options:** High school, vocational school, one or two-year technical or business degree or on-the-job training.
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$8.98
- **Average Starting Salary:** \$18,670
- **Median Salary Range:** \$23,110 - \$41,810
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation and sick time.
- **Promotion Potential:** Advancements include more responsibility and could lead to supervisory, executive or personal assistant positions.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** An administrative assistant's duties vary greatly, but can include writing, typing, organizing, filing, copying, and excellent telephone and interpersonal communication skills.

Architect

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, drawing (freehand and mechanical), computer and CADD, math (geometry) and physical sciences.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Communication, business, liberal arts, building design, computer courses architectural history and drafting.
- **Training Options:** Professional degree. A three-year internship is required before architects can take a nine-division, computerized exam to become registered with the American Institute of Architects (AIA).
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$21.60
- **Average Starting Salary:** \$44,930
- **Median Salary Range:** \$57,620 - \$94,120
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation and sick time, cellular phone, travel expenses and corporate memberships.
- **Promotion Potential:** The entry-level architectural position is a draftsman, and promotions could lead to a principal designer position. This involves more responsibility and greater complexity of architectural designs.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Architects design physical solutions for building needs or problems. They work with construction documents and specifications, create building models and furniture and equipment designs.

Banker

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, math, statistics, writing, communication and computer courses.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Business, accounting, finance and economics.
- **Training Options:** Two or four-year degree in finance, accounting, economics or business and on-the-job training.
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$15.97
- **Average Starting Salary:** \$33,220
- **Median Salary Range:** \$44,030 - \$86,760
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation, sick time, cellular phone and corporate memberships.
- **Promotion Potential:** Beginning bankers can advance with experience to top jobs such as financial officer, treasurer and controller. They could also become a bank president or executive officer.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Bankers prepare, analyze and verify financial requests for construction companies, and monitor monetary systems.

Computer Programmer

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, math (algebra) and computer courses.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Computer science (data structures and systems), engineering, accounting, business classes and math.
- **Training Options:** Two or four-year degree (computer science, engineering or math), specialized schools and on-the-job training.
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$20.98

- **Average Starting Salary:** \$43,640
- **Median Salary Range:** \$57,940 - \$97,760
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation and sick time.
- **Promotion Potential:** Competition is high due to the constant need to update educational training and stay ahead of technology changes. Individuals that do advance may become a systems analyst or reach managerial positions.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Programmers tell the computer how to get a job done. They write, test and maintain the detailed instructions - called programs or software - that list in logical order the steps computers must execute to perform their functions.

Engineer

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, math (calculus), physics, chemistry, physical science and statistics.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Thermodynamics, heat transfer, electrical circuits, blueprint reading, control systems, surveying, geology and structural systems.
- **Training Options:** Bachelor's degree in engineering, possibly graduate school. A professional engineer's (P.E.) license is required.
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$24.27
- **Average Starting Salary:** \$52,550
- **Median Salary Range:** \$65,370 - \$102,770 *Salary varies by engineering specialty.*
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation and sick time, cellular phone and corporate memberships.
- **Promotion Potential:** With a graduate degree in engineering, engineers can advance into management positions or focus on a specialized portion of the industry, such as mechanical, civil or electrical engineering.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Engineers design machinery, products, systems and processes for the construction of buildings and highways. They also test products and determine how to fix structural problems.

Estimator

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, math, science and computer courses.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Blueprint reading, accounting, finance, economics, statistics and business knowledge of construction.
- **Training Options:** Two-year or four-year degree (civil engineering, construction management or drafting) or on-the-job training.
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$16.48
- **Average Starting Salary:** \$34,280
- **Median Salary Range:** \$44,710 - \$78,250
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation and sick time.
- **Promotion Potential:** An advancement in estimating usually means higher pay and prestige, but could include a management position.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Estimators develop cost information for owners or managers to use in making bids for contracts. They compile and analyze data that influence costs - like materials, labor and location.

Field Superintendent

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, math, science and shop class.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Leadership and communication skills, human resources and management knowledge, safety training, and a thorough knowledge of construction methods.
- **Training Options:** High school, vocational school, on-the-job training or a four-year technical degree (construction management or engineering).
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$17.78
- **Average Starting Salary:** \$37,190
- **Median Salary Range:** \$46,970 - \$76,700
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation and sick time, company truck and tools, and cellular phone.
- **Promotion Potential:** Superintendents may become a project or operations manager, general superintendent, or take on other supervisory positions.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Superintendents make sure workers, equipment and materials are used properly to maximize productivity. They create work schedules, keep records, monitor employees and organize workers' activities.

Inspector

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, statistics, accounting, math and computer courses.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Blueprint reading, recordkeeping, surveying, drafting, business law, safety training and a thorough knowledge of construction materials and practices.
- **Training Options:** Two or four-year degree, the military, specialized institutes and on-the-job training.
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$15.79
- **Average Starting Salary:** \$32,850
- **Median Salary Range:** \$42,090 - \$69,310
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, company car, cellular phone, paid vacation and sick time.
- **Promotion Potential:** Inspectors usually begin by inspecting less complex types of construction. Advancements include pay and responsibility increases, supervisory roles and inspecting larger, more complex construction jobs.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Inspectors examine the construction or repair of buildings, highways and other structures to be sure they are in compliance with local and federal building codes and safety regulations.

Interior Designer

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, drawing, CAD (Computer Aided Design) and math (geometry).
- **Other Recommended Education:** Communication, liberal arts, building design, computer courses and drafting.
- **Training Options:** Two or four-year degree, vocational school, specialized art institute or on-the-job training.
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$12.73

- **Average Starting Salary:** \$26,490
- **Median Salary Range:** \$35,290 - \$67,110
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation and sick time.
- **Promotion Potential:** The entry-level interior designer works on simple designs, and promotions could lead to a principal designer position. This involves more responsibility and greater complexity of interior designs.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Interior designers design and draw physical solutions for building interiors. They choose fabrics, paints, stone and other interior surfaces, and work with space and placement of objects.

Lawyer (Attorney)

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, math, government, writing, debate, English, foreign language, communication and computer courses.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Logistics, history, philosophy and a general knowledge of a variety of subjects.
- **Training Options:** A four-year bachelor's and a three-year law degree, plus passage of the state bar exam.
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$26.52
- **Average Starting Salary:** \$55,170
- **Median Salary Range:** \$75,540 - \$169,880
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation and sick time, cellular phone and corporate memberships.
- **Promotion Potential:** Lawyers begin as a research assistant and can become a partner of the firm, or begin a law practice of their own. Specialty areas of practice, such as construction law, is a growing field.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Lawyers act as advocates and advisors. They represent one of the opposing parties in a trial, presenting evidence supporting the client. They also counsel clients about their legal rights.

Marketing Director

- **Suggested High School Courses:** English, reading, history, literature, writing, communication, psychology, business and computer courses.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Journalism, media training, sociology, political science, public relations, philosophy and economics.
- **Training Options:** Bachelor's or master's degree in business administration, marketing, advertising, journalism, public relations or liberal arts.
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$30.98
- **Average Starting Salary:** \$64,440
- **Median Salary Range:** \$88,130 - \$166,250
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation and sick time, cellular phone and corporate memberships.
- **Promotion Potential:** Along with more responsibilities, marketing directors are prime candidates for advancement because of their job importance and high visibility within companies.

- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Marketing directors bring information to public attention. They are strong communicators, deal with phone inquiries, maintain contact with the press, and interact with the public in a way that is courteous, creative and informative.

Project Manager

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, math, accounting, drafting, shop class and computer courses.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Building science and management, construction work experience, blueprint reading, computer courses and safety training.
- **Training Options:** Two or four-year degree (construction management, architecture or engineering) or on-the-job training.
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$24.14
- **Average Starting Salary:** \$50,220
- **Median Salary Range:** \$64,890 - \$111,710
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation and sick time, company truck and cellular phone.
- **Promotion Potential:** Promotions vary depending upon company size. At a large firm, they may become top-level managers.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Project managers coordinate, supervise, and manage the entire construction process – including people, materials, budgets, schedules and contracts, and the safety of the employees.

Purchasing Agent

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, math, accounting, communication, business and computer courses.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Knowledge of construction materials and advanced computer courses.
- **Training Options:** Four-year degree (engineering, business or economics) and on-the-job training.
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$17.57
- **Average Starting Salary:** \$36,540
- **Median Salary Range:** \$45,760 - \$77,590
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation and sick time.
- **Promotion Potential:** A master's degree and continuing education or certification are essential for advancement.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Purchasing agents have a technical knowledge of the goods or services to be purchased for their company. In the construction industry, a project manager may perform the duties of a purchasing agent.

Safety Director

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, math, government, civics and communication.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Business, government and safety regulations, industrial hygiene and management courses.
- **Training Options:** Bachelor's or master's degree, training from a specialized institution or on-the-job training.
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$21.98
- **Average Starting Salary:** \$45,720
- **Median Salary Range:** \$60,050 - \$101,530
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation and sick time, company truck and cellular phone.
- **Promotion Potential:** Safety directors can acquire more responsibilities and duties, and may become a top company manager or a private safety consultant.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Safety directors visit jobsites to detect unsafe equipment, working practices or unhealthy working conditions. They teach safe working practices to construction workers.

Sales Representative

- **Suggested High School Courses:** Reading, math, writing, speech class and computer courses.
- **Other Recommended Education:** Technical knowledge of the product sold, management, statistics and computer courses.
- **Training Options:** High school, two or four-year degree (in a field related to the product being sold) or on-the-job training.
- **Average Starting Hourly Pay:** \$12.99
- **Average Starting Salary:** \$27,030
- **Median Salary Range:** \$37,790 - \$78,460
- **Paid Benefits:** Can include retirement, health and life insurance, paid vacation and sick time, company car, cellular phone and corporate memberships.
- **Promotion Potential:** Good salespeople will receive more commission and responsibility, a larger territory or could become sales managers or company owners.
- **Tasks & Functions of the Job:** Sales representatives sell items and/or services. They act as industry experts, consultants and problem solvers when selling their firm's services.