

BX Career Exploration

Professional Career Profiles

Accountant

Accountants and auditors prepare, analyze, and verify financial reports, and monitor systems that furnish this information to managers of business organizations. They also verify the accuracy of their firm's financial records and check for waste. Accountants/auditors typically work in the home office of a construction firm, and rarely visit the field office(s).

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, math, statistics, writing, communication and computer courses.

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 Hourly Pay: \$35.37

Average Yearly Salary: \$73,560

Architect

Architects design physical solutions for building needs or problems. They work with construction documents and specifications, create building models and furniture and equipment designs. Architects learn to discover new and creative ways of problem solving under diverse and changing conditions with known and unknown constraints.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, drawing (freehand and mechanical), computer and CADD, math (geometry) and physical sciences.

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 Hourly Pay: \$39.58

Average Yearly Salary: \$82,320

Engineer

Engineers in construction are involved in planning, design, construction, operation, and management of engineering and engineering-construction projects. They are problem solvers, test products and determine ways to fix structural problems. Engineers in construction may specialize in several engineering fields such as architectural, civil, structural, electrical and mechanical engineering.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, math (calculus), physics, chemistry, physical science and statistics.

Training Options

Bachelor's degree in engineering, possibly graduate school. A professional engineer's (P.E.) license is required.

Average Hourly Pay: \$42.58-\$48.48 depending on engineering specialty

Average Yearly Salary: \$88,570-\$100,830 depending on engineering specialty

Estimator

Estimators develop cost information with owners or managers to use in making bids for contracts. The estimator's job is important in every construction firm. Every type of project requires an accurate and comprehensive estimate of the amounts of materials, equipment, and labor necessary for the construction of the project.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, math, science and computer courses.

Training Options

Two-year or four-year degree (civil engineering, construction management or drafting) or on-the-job training.

Average Hourly Pay: \$32.03

Average Yearly Salary: \$66,610

Field Superintendent

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. The superintendent supervises all these activities by talking with and directing the foremen for the different trades or craft workers.

Suggested High School Courses: Reading, math, science and shop class.

Training Options: High school, vocational school, on-the-job training or a four-year technical degree (construction management or engineering).

Average Hourly Pay: \$32.61

Average Yearly Salary: \$67,840

Interior Designer

Interior designers make interior spaces functional, safe, and beautiful for almost every type of building. They make indoor spaces functional, safe, and beautiful by determining space requirements and selecting essential and decorative items, such as colors, lighting, fabrics, paints and materials.

Suggested High School Courses: Reading, drawing, CAD (Computer Aided Design) and math (geometry).

Training Options: Two or four-year degree, vocational school, specialized art institute or on-the-job training.

Average Hourly Pay: \$27.43

Average Yearly Salary: \$57,060

Construction Lawyer

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.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, math, government, writing, debate, English, foreign language, communication and computer courses.

Training Options

A four-year bachelor's and a three-year law degree, plus passage of the state bar exam.

Average Hourly Pay: \$61.03 (could vary depending on specialty)

Average Yearly Salary: \$126,930 (could vary depending on specialty)

Marketing Director

The marketing manager is responsible for advertising, sales and public relations. They are strong communicators, who use their creativity and problem-solving skills to identify and maintain business opportunities for the company.

Suggested High School Courses

English, reading, history, literature, writing, communication, psychology, business and computer courses.

Training Options

Bachelor's or master's degree in business administration, marketing, advertising, journalism, public relations or liberal arts.

Average Hourly Pay: \$35.88

Average Yearly Salary: \$74,620

Project Manager

Project managers coordinate, supervise, and overall management of the entire construction process – including people, materials, budgets, schedules and contracts, and the safety of the employees.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, math, accounting, drafting, shop class and computer courses.

Training Options

Two or four-year degree (construction management, architecture or engineering) or on-the-job training.

Average Hourly Pay: \$37.22

Average Yearly Salary: \$77,420

Safety Director

Safety directors are responsible for maintaining the safety and well-being of all employees, whether in the office or on a jobsite. They ensure the company stays compliant with OSHA safety standards by implementing safe work practices and keeping employees up-to-date on industry training.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, math, government, civics and communication.

Training Options

Bachelor's or master's degree, training from a specialized institution or on-the-job training.

Average Hourly Pay: \$36.70

Average Yearly Salary: \$76,340