

BXCareer Exploration

Skilled Trades Career Profiles

Carpenter

Carpenters construct and repair structures made from wood and other materials as well as install building frameworks, build forms for concrete and erect partitions, studs, joints, drywalls, and rafters. They must be very skillful as finish work is visible and often involves expensive materials. Carpenters usually begin as an apprentice and can become a journeyman, foreman or superintendent.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, math (geometry), carpentry, mechanical drawing and drafting.

Training Options

High school, vocational school, apprenticeship training, the military, two-year college or on-the-job training.

Average Hourly Pay: \$23.81

Average Yearly Salary: \$49,520

Crane and Tower Operator

Crane and tower operators use tower and cable equipment to lift and move materials, machinery, or other heavy objects. From a control station, operators can extend and retract horizontal booms, rotate the superstructure, and lower and raise hooks attached to cables at the end of their crane or tower.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, math (geometry), drafting and mechanical drawing.

Training Options

High school, vocational school, apprenticeship/training program or the military. State certification and/or licensure are often required.

Average Hourly Pay: \$28.71

Average Yearly Salary: \$59,710

Drywall Installer

Installers apply drywall, which is a thin layer of gypsum sandwiched between two layers of heavy paper, to walls and ceilings. Workers usually specialize as either installers or finishers. Interior systems carpenters work on building surfaces and install equipment and material such as acoustical ceilings, raised floors for computers, metal framing, wall partitions, and office furniture systems.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, basic math and carpentry.

Training Options

High school, vocational school, apprenticeship training or on-the-job training.

Average Hourly Pay: \$22.82

Average Yearly Salary: \$47,460

Electrician

Electricians lay out, install, and test electrical service and electrical wire systems used to provide heat, light, power, air conditioning, and refrigeration in homes, office building, factories, hospitals, and schools. They also install conduit and other materials, and connect electrical machinery, equipment, and controls and transmission systems.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, physical science, physics and math (algebra).

Training Options

High school, vocational school, apprenticeship training, on-the-job training, the military or two-year colleges.

Average Hourly Pay: \$29.81

Average Yearly Salary: \$62,010

Excavator/Heavy Equipment Operator

Excavators use heavy equipment to clear and level a building construction site, moving trees, shrubbery, dirt and/or existing buildings. Operating Engineers or Equipment Operators operate and maintain a variety of powerful equipment ranging from bulldozers, backhoes, and earthmovers to very large power shovels and cranes.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, math (geometry), drafting and mechanical drawing.

Training Options

High school, vocational school, the military or on-the-job training.

Average Hourly Pay: \$28.71

Average Yearly Salary: \$59,710

Glazier

Glaziers are responsible for selecting, cutting, fitting and installation and removal of all types of glass as well as plastics, marble and other materials. They work both inside and outside on various types of structures.

Suggested High School Courses

Math, mechanical drawing and shop class.

Training Options

High school, apprenticeship training, vocational school or on-the-job training.

Average Hourly Pay: \$22.15

Average Yearly Salary: \$46,080

Ironworker

Ironworkers work with iron, steel, aluminum and bronze to build highways, bridges and office buildings, often at great heights. Workers specialize as either structural or reinforcing ironworkers. They must wear safety equipment to reduce the risk of falls or other injuries.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, math, mechanical drawing and shop class.

Training Options

High school, vocational school, apprenticeship training, on-the-job training, or the military.

Average Hourly Pay: \$26.36

Average Yearly Salary: \$54,830

Mason – Brick Mason – Block Mason

The mason works under direction and performs all general masonry work involved in the maintenance and construction of block, stone, and brick structures. They construct and repair concrete structures and work with various machines and hand tools common to the masonry trade. Masons often work from a set of drawings and sometimes work with large and heavy pieces of stone.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, math and shop class.

Training Options

High school, apprenticeship training, vocational school, the military or on-the-job training.

Average Hourly Pay: \$26.48

Average Yearly Salary: \$55,080

Mechanical Contractor

Mechanical contractors are involved in the installation, repair and maintenance of heating, air conditioning and refrigeration systems. HVAC (heating, ventilating, and air conditioning) combines sheet metal and electrical work involving installation, wiring, service, and repair of environmental control systems and the fabrication and installation of ductwork.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, math, science, mechanical drawing, applied physics, chemistry and computer courses.

Training Options

High school, apprenticeship training, vocational school, the military, two-year technical degree or on-the-job training.

Average Hourly Pay: \$24.05

Average Yearly Salary: \$50,030

Painter

Painting includes the preparation of surfaces and the application of paint, varnish, enamel, lacquer, and similar materials to wood, metal, or masonry buildings. They choose the correct paint or finish for the surface to be covered, and sometimes remove the old finish before applying a new one.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, math and shop class.

Training Options

High school, vocational school, apprenticeship training or on-the-job training.

Average Hourly Pay: \$20.25

Average Yearly Salary: \$42,130

Plumber

Plumbers are skilled craftsmen who install, repair and maintain pipes, valves, fittings, drainage systems, and fixtures in commercial and residential structures. They work from blueprints and working drawings to determine materials required for installation.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, math (geometry), drafting, applied physics and chemistry.

Training Options

High school, apprenticeship training, vocational school, the military, two-year technical degree or on-the-job training.

Average Hourly Pay: \$27.08

Average Yearly Salary: \$56,333

Roofer

Roofers repair, replace and install new roofs. They work at many different heights to repair and install roofs of tar or asphalt, slate, fiberglass, tile, wood or other materials. A roofers main duties include inspecting roofs, replacing faulty tiles, conducting any necessary repairs, and sealing roofs to make them watertight.

Suggested High School Courses

Reading, basic math and mechanical drawing.

Training Options

High school, vocational school, apprenticeship training or on-the-job training.

Average Hourly Pay: \$20.95

Average Yearly Salary: \$43,580