Carpentry is a Hot Job in Michigan

Carpenters spend their days doing everything from analyzing the blueprints of a new highway structure to constructing custom kitchen cabinets for someone’s home—all in the name of creating structurally sound and aesthetically pleasing buildings, houses, offices, and interiors their clients will love. This field, which falls within the architecture and construction career pathway, is great for independent thinkers and doers with a knack for mathematics. There are countless career possibilities, depending on the level of college you want to pursue.

To succeed in this field, carpenters must be comfortable using specialized tools and problem solving with spatial skills. They also need to develop knowledge of design techniques, adhere to safety procedures, and collaborate with coworkers on a job site. You can build on the skills you learn and the training you acquire to specialize in areas like solar energy installation, civil engineering, and more. The possibilities are limitless!

Cool Classes You Can Take

Carpentry isn’t only about woodworking and blueprint reading. There are some cool, unexpected classes you can choose as you pursue this path, such as:

**Residential Energy Efficiency**
Through hands-on and classroom learning, discover how building design and construction can impact energy consumption and conservation.

**Construction Cost Estimating**
Building structures is one thing. Quoting the work and forecasting the profit is another. This class uses computer skills to understand how cost estimation and the construction bidding process works.

Financial Help

There are many federal grants, work-study funds, and low-interest loans available to help students cover the costs of tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and other college-related expenses. The first step in securing necessary financial aid is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Projected job openings annually: 2,600

Estimated job growth: 7.5%

Hourly rates for carpenters: $16–$28

Some Available Programs
- Bay Mills Community College
- Delta College
- Ferris State University
- Gogebic College
- Lansing Community College
- Macomb Community College
- Monroe County Community College
- Mott Community College
- Northern Michigan University
- Northwestern Michigan College
- Oakland Community College
- Southwestern Michigan College
- Washtenaw Community College
There are many different education and career paths in **CARPENTRY.** Here are a few you might follow after graduating from high school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification Type</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Annual Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CERTIFICATE</strong></td>
<td>Construction Carpenter</td>
<td>$44,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rough Carpenter</td>
<td>$44,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADVANCED CERTIFICATE</strong></td>
<td>Construction and Building Inspector</td>
<td>$55,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSOCIATE DEGREE</strong></td>
<td>First-line Supervisor of Trade Workers</td>
<td>$61,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Solar Energy Installation Manager</td>
<td>$61,920</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BACHELOR'S DEGREE</strong></td>
<td>Construction Manager</td>
<td>$89,100</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cost Estimator</td>
<td>$60,640</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHERE**

*College* refers to an educational institution or establishment that provides education beyond high school and/or specialized professional training that is credit bearing.

**WHAT**

A **credential** verifies an individual’s qualification or competence in a particular area and is usually issued by colleges in the form of certificates and academic degrees.

**WHY**

A **career** is a series of jobs or professional undertakings for a significant period of your life that offers opportunities for advancement and provides a life-sustaining wage.

**WHEN**

Now! Don’t wait to go to college to earn a credential that leads not only to your first job but also to a full and rewarding career!

To learn more about this pathway, check out the video at roadmap2opportunity.org.

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All occupational information provided by Roadmap to Opportunity is from O*NET Online and is available at onetonline.org.