

Building Trades/Carpentry* (AAS Non-Transfer Degree & 1 year Certificate)

Architecture and Construction Career Cluster

SAN JUAN COLLEGE

NATURE OF WORK

There are many different kinds of construction activities that involve carpenters. Carpenters cut, fit and assemble wood and other materials for the construction of buildings, highways, bridges, docks, industrial plants, boats and other structures. Builders use specialty contractors who hire carpenters specializing in just one or two areas which may include setting forms for concrete construction; framing; erecting scaffolding or performing finishing work, such as installing interior and exterior trim. Jobs vary with the different contractors. Some carpenters change employers each time they finish a construction job, while others alternate between working for a contractor and working as a contractor themselves on smaller jobs.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Carpentry work can be strenuous and physical fitness is important to someone who considers this career. Carpenters must be able to stand, climb, bend and kneel for long periods of time. Being safety conscious is important as they often use sharp tools and power equipment and work with heavy or rough materials. Carpenters might work outdoors or in situations where slipping or falling is a possibility. Manual dexterity, eye-hand coordination, physical fitness and a good sense of balance are essential.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Carpenters learn their trade through formal training programs and through on-the-job training. While some pick up skills informally by working under the supervision of experienced workers, many acquire skills through technical education at community colleges and through apprenticeship programs that are offered by some employers. Apprenticeships also combine on-the-job training with classroom experiences. Early preparation in high school would include courses in carpentry, shop, and mechanical drawing. General mathematics is also desirable.

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment for carpenters is expected to be excellent in the foreseeable future. The general economy and each individual geographic location will drive the job outlook for carpentry in that region. Though there will be occasional slumps in demand the need for new housing, commercial development and industrial plants as well as the need to renovate and modernize existing structures should stabilize construction activity.

CAREER OPTIONS

Carpenter

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

New Mexico — \$25,600 - \$47,500

Nationally — \$29,100 - \$65,900

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Brick masons, block masons, stone masons, cement masons, concrete finisher, segmental pavers, terrazzo workers, electricians, pipe layers, plumbers, pipe fitters, steamfitters, plasterers, stucco masons.

SJC Basic Program Information

- This program requires that the student purchase his/her own tools. To obtain a list of required tools, contact the program instructor.
- Students must earn a grade of "C" or higher in all courses in order to receive a degree or certificate.



For further information go to:

www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos202.htm

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos1009.htm



* Most of this information is from the Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-2009

Reviewed on January 8, 2010