Potential Careers

NMU’s Building Technology Program prepares students for employment in the following careers:

Occupations

- Architectural Detailer
- Assistant Estimator
- Building Inspector
- Building Maintenance Technician
- Building Material Sales Person
- Carpenter
- Carpenter Apprentice
- Cement Finisher
- Concrete Former and Finisher
- Construction Foreman
- Expediter
- Infrastructure Field Technician
- Materials Tester
- Reinforced Concrete Detailer
- Structural Drafter
- Surveyor

For Career Planning and Opportunities:

Academic & Career Advisement Center
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2971
103 Jacobetti Complex
906-227-2283
www.nmu.edu/acac

Department of Technology and Occupational Sciences
101 Jacobetti Complex
906-227-2190
www.nmu.edu/tos

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:

Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
www.nmu.edu/careers

For Information about NMU Student Organizations Associated with this Major:

Center for Student Enrichment
1206 University Center
906-227-2439
www.nmu.edu/cse

Internet Resource Links:

- www.careers.org
- www.careerresource.net

For Career Information with National Organizations:

- www.abc.org Associate Builders and Contractors
- www.age.org Associated General Contractors of America
- www.necarpenters.org/ubc United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America
- www.acce-hq.org American Council for Construction Education

Current as of Fall 2015

Provided by:

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
Building Technology

Carpenters erect wood and light-gauge steel framework in buildings; construct forms for concrete; and install all types of floor coverings, ceilings, paneling, trim, and interior systems. They must be very skillful as “finish” work is visible and often involves expensive materials. Some carpenters construct docks and work with large timbers and drive piles to support the foundations of buildings and bridges. All carpenters use a wide variety of hand- and power-tools.

Building Technicians perform surveys for construction-site layout, prepare and interpret blueprints and drawings for residential or commercial construction projects, and apply appropriate building codes. They also assist in the layout and development of projects. Building Technicians utilize the principles of mathematics and physics, basic design analysis and building layout knowledge combined with management and other technical skills.

Northern Michigan University focuses on hands-on lectures and laboratory practice rather than a pure theoretical education.

Skills and Competencies

Students considering a career in the Building Technology should consider that physical fitness is as important as eye-hand coordination and a good sense of balance. Previous experience of carpentry, shop, mechanical drawing and general mathematics is desirable. The job has a potential risk of injury because it requires one to handle sharp or rough materials and power equipment.

Keep in mind that carpenters and building technicians spend a great amount of time outdoors. A carpenter has to be precise and analytical, capable of working without supervision, and able to adapt to a variety of situations.

Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with liberal studies and graduation requirements.

Core

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CN 107 Construction Documents</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
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<tr>
<td>CN 110 Construction Processes</td>
<td>2 cr</td>
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<tr>
<td>CN 153 Introduction to Construction Design</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
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<tr>
<td>CN 156 Construction Systems and Methods</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
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<tr>
<td>CN 158 Concrete</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
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<tr>
<td>CN 251 Constructions Field Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>CN 252 Codes and Inspection</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN 254 Construction Survey and Layout</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN 278 Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Systems</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN 283 Constructions Estimating</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
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Other required courses

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>EN 111 College Composition I</td>
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<tr>
<td>EN 211 College Composition II</td>
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<tr>
<td>HP 200 Physical Well Being</td>
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<tr>
<td>MA 106 Trigonometry</td>
<td>3 cr</td>
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<tr>
<td>MKT 230 Introduction to Marketing</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH 201 College Physics I</td>
<td>5 cr</td>
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<tr>
<td>SP 100 Public Address</td>
<td>4 cr</td>
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Detailed course descriptions can be found at www.nmu.edu/bulletin.

Career Development

You should begin the résumé-building process as soon as you can. The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning, while Career Services will help you fine tune your résumé and look for job openings. Becoming involved in an industry-related internship helps develop your professional skills and gain experience. Your academic course work is important as well, so be sure to maintain a high grade point average.

You are encouraged to join Northern Michigan Constructors (NMC), a student group that provides opportunities for community service, hands-on learning and leadership.

Additional Considerations

Building Technology is an Associate of Applied Science degree which requires 63 credits, approximately four semesters.

A student can ladder this degree into the construction management baccalaureate degree program, meaning that after completion of the 63 credit Associate’s degree, you can then use the credits towards a 124 credit baccalaureate degree. This allows a great opportunity to use your new degree in a work setting, while continuing on in school for another degree.

Job Outlook

Building technology and carpentry are expected to grow at an average rate of 20%. The average worker makes about $19 an hour, with the top earners pulling in more than $34 an hour. As with most careers, location is major factor in earning potential. Be aware that bad weather sometimes can hinder your ability to work and possibly cause you to earn less.