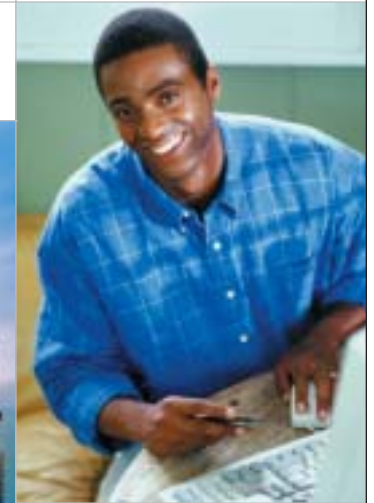


A Career in Construction Management



BUILD AMERICA'S FUTURE AS YOU BUILD YOUR OWN!

CMAA



Introduction

- ▶ A beach house for children with special needs.
- ▶ A factory to build more than 100,000 automobiles each year.
- ▶ A highly secure super-computing facility at a U.S. national laboratory.
- ▶ A \$700 million, 6.4 kilometer subway line and station.
- ▶ A 12 year, \$3+ billion project to improve wastewater treatment in an historic harbor area.

All of these projects have been completed recently. All were finished successfully—on time, on budget, and with excellent quality and safety records—largely because their owners relied on professional Construction Managers.

Airports, highways, schools, bridges, factories, arenas: America is building all of these things, all the time.

As a professional Construction Manager, you can play a central role in helping your community, and your nation, meet its future needs for critical infrastructure of all kinds.

You can **lead** diverse teams of professionals and see the results of your efforts in the form of structures that will stand and perform for years or decades to come.

Construction Management is one of America's most exciting, challenging and rewarding professions. It's also growing quickly, as construction projects become more complex and needs become more pressing.

As a Construction Manager, you'll earn good pay, enjoy highly varied and interesting work, and pursue clear paths of advancement throughout your career.

Why not **start today** to explore a career in professional Construction Management?

What does a CM do?

The Construction Manager acts on behalf of an owner, contractor or designer at every step in a construction project. Owners may be private developers or public agencies such as school boards and transit authorities. CMs help:

- Define and translate project needs into a definition of the project to be built.
- Develop a project budget and schedule.
- Select a project architect, other design professionals and the contractor.



- Oversee the develop of project documents that potential contractors and others will need in order to bid on the work.
- Review bids and bidder qualifications.
- Control disbursements of funds as construction progresses.
- Coordinate and supervise the work of all contractors and subcontractors to be sure the job's specifications are being followed.
- Facilitate communication among all team members.
- Respond to changing owner needs by implementing change orders to the project scope of work.
- Avoid delays, disputes, accidents and cost overruns.
- Coordinate the "commissioning" process, the final delivery of a completed project with every element accomplished according to the job specifications.

What your job will be like

Before construction begins, you will work with the owner, architect, engineers, general contractor and others to determine the best possible sequence of construction tasks and develop a detailed schedule and budget. This often requires sophisticated computer software and planning techniques, as well as knowledge of all critical construction tasks.

During construction, the CM often works on the job site to be in the closest possible contact with key project participants, ongoing work, and issues

requiring immediate decisions. However, advances in communications technology make it possible for a CM on site to be continuously linked to his or her home office, or to stay in the office and be in touch with the job site.

Many projects today, for example, use web-based collaboration tools and rely on wireless connections to transmit job documents, change orders, emails, and other information between the job site and offices or other locations.

You will be responsible for reviewing all project requirements regularly and monitoring the ongoing construction to assure that those requirements are being met. A key part of your job will be to keep everyone involved in a project fully informed of requirements, resources, progress and possible difficulties.

The CM is "on call" all during construction. Some construction projects can proceed seven days a week and around-the-clock. You will spend your day dedicated to one or more projects.



Your preparation

Some people become professional CMs after years of experience in one of the building trades. However, the job today increasingly requires specific academic preparation as well as construction knowledge.

A well qualified CM candidate will have strong mathematics, physical science, construction science and business management training on his or her college transcript. He or she will also be an adept computer user, at home with every sort of application from basic spreadsheets to complete Geographic Information Systems.

To become a CM, a person must understand contracts and business practices as well as construction materials and methods. You'll need good oral and written communications skills, and you must be able to handle several things at once in a fast paced environment.

Many colleges and universities across the country currently offer four-year degree programs in construction management or construction science. Graduates of these programs may be hired as assistants to project managers, field engineers, schedulers, or cost estimators. An increasing number

of graduates in other fields like architecture or engineering are also entering construction management. Often they opt for a CM career after gaining substantial project experience or obtaining an advanced degree in construction management.

Numerous colleges and universities offer a masters degree program in construction management or construction science. Master's degree recipients, especially those with work experience in construction, typically become construction managers in very large construction or construction management companies.

A number of two-year colleges offer construction management or construction technology programs, and many individuals also attend training and educational programs sponsored by industry associations.

Scholarships are available to help you pursue your education. The Construction Management Association of America Foundation, for example, offers financial support to students in four-year college and university programs. Many local and regional chapters of CMAA offer their own scholarships to students in their areas. Information on these programs can be obtained from www.cmaanet.org.



Continuing to grow

Your early experience as an assistant construction manager will qualify you for increasingly responsible jobs. You'll have a variety of opportunities to gain new skills to help you handle more important positions.

Like many other technical professions, a qualified practitioner can achieve certification. Professional certification of Construction Managers identifies individuals with specific knowledge, abilities, and experience.



The Construction Manager Certification Institute administers a voluntary program that bestows the "Certified Construction Manager" or CCM designation. CMAA administers the voluntary certification program for construction managers.

To qualify, you must meet stringent requirements for actual project experience over a period of years. You must also complete a self-study course that covers a broad range of topics central to construction management, including the professional role of a construction manager, legal issues, and allocation of risk.

Although certification is not required to work in the construction industry, voluntary certification can be valuable because it provides evidence of competence and experience. Many firms today strongly encourage their employees to obtain CCM certification, and may make this certification a requirement for promotion to upper-level positions.

Your future in Construction Management

Construction jobs today are more complex than ever. It takes solid professional management to bring even a relatively modest job to successful completion.

Despite this challenge, America needs to undertake vast amounts of new construction in the coming decades, to meet ever-growing needs in such areas as schools, highways, rail transportation, and water/wastewater.

As a professional Construction Manager, you can not only be part of meeting this challenge, you can **drive** the process. You can stand at the intersection of diverse disciplines. Your talent and energy can help the talents and efforts of others bear fruit. You can see the results of your work, and the benefit you've helped deliver to your community and your nation.

Construction Management is an exciting, growing field, full of challenge and enjoyment. Give CM a long look when considering your career options... and don't hesitate to call on CMAA with any questions.



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