



Foundations of Woodworking

Career Explorations:

Carpenter

April 29, 2020



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Career Explorations/Carpenter: [April 29, 2020]

Objective/Learning Target:

Students will explore the possibility of becoming a carpenter as a career path.

Carpenter Career Info

Carpenters work with wood and other materials to complete a variety of construction projects. A career in carpentry requires the ability to read blueprints, lay out projects, cut wood, and assemble different materials. They are also responsible for ensuring their work is accurate and in compliance with building standards. Heavy lifting, climbing ladders, standing for prolonged periods, and working in all types of weather might make this occupation physically demanding. Carpenters often work overtime.

Watch The Video:

[How to Become a
Carpenter](#)

What does it take to become an carpenter

Degree Level	A high school diploma or equivalent is required; associate's degree preferred
Degree Field	Carpentry
Training	3-4 year apprenticeship
Key Skills	Manual dexterity, attention to detail; strong math and problem-solving skills; strength, stamina, focus; basic computer skills and experience using a variety of hand and power tools including chisels, levels, sanders, saws, and nail guns
Median Salary (2015)*	\$42,090

Sources: *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, O*Net OnLine.

How can I become a carpenter

Apprenticeship programs

Being admitted to a carpentry apprenticeship program is the most common path to becoming a carpenter. Apprenticeships, which generally take 3-4 years to complete, offer on-the-job training along with classroom instruction. This program is a good way to gain necessary expertise with the tools of the trade and how to best avoid strain or injury.

An apprentice must be at least 18 years old, a U.S. citizen, and high school graduate. Potential apprentices are also subject to drug screenings. Individuals are educated in subjects such as carpentry techniques, blueprint reading, safety practices, and scaffold construction. For each year of an aspiring carpenter's apprenticeship, he or she will complete at least 144 hours of technical training and 2000 hours of practical training in the field.

Successful Tip

Develop a fitness routine. A carpenter's job can be very taxing physically; they work on their feet, both indoor and outdoors, and sometimes in small spaces. Following a fitness regimen may be a good way to stay in shape and build physical stamina.

Post Secondary Education

Though it is not mandatory to break into the profession, aspiring carpenters may complete formal carpentry programs at technical schools or colleges. This formal training offers additional experience in the trade. Diploma, certificate, and associate's degree programs are all available in carpentry.

Post Secondary Continued

Educational coursework includes building codes, concrete work, blueprint reading, roof framing, building materials, tools, building layouts, and fasteners. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that credit earned during an apprenticeship program may be applied to an associate's degree program.

Develop Marketable Skills

The BLS predicts that carpentry will grow up to 24% in the decade from 2012-2022, though construction jobs tend to fluctuate by geographic location and current economy.

Carpenters may choose to enhance their skills by specializing in infrastructure or renovation or by taking courses in Spanish.

Carpenters who speak both English and Spanish may be better positioned for advancement in the field, since they can effectively communicate with workers on their teams.

Develop Marketable Skills

Carpenters work with wood as well as a variety of materials to complete construction projects and must have the ability to read blueprints, use tools safely and effectively, and carry out projects. Aspiring carpenters have many different options when it comes to education, and they must complete an apprenticeship before becoming a carpenter.

Carpenter fun facts

1. A carpenter works with wood and other materials to complete a variety of projects?

- True
- False

Answer: True

2. The average salary for a carpenter according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics is?

- \$20,000 - \$30,000 annually

- \$30,000 - \$40,000 annually

- \$40,000 - \$50,000 annually

- \$50,000 - \$60,000 annually

**Answer: \$40,000
- \$50,000**

According to the Bureau of Labor and
Statistics the median income for a
carpenter in 2015 was \$42,090

3. Traits of a carpenter include?

- Good physical strength
- Ability to read blue-prints
- Problem solving skills
- Ability to work with tools and equipment
- All of the above

Answer: All of the above

A carpenter should have the following characteristics, Manual dexterity, attention to detail; strong math and problem-solving skills; strength, stamina, focus; basic computer skills and experience using a variety of hand and power tools including chisels, levels, sanders, saws, and nail guns.

4. You must attend a 4-year university in order to receive the certification required to become a carpenter?

- True
- False

Answer: False

These guidelines are set at the state level and often only require a high school diploma and the completion of an apprenticeship program.

5. The apprenticeship program in this area often lasts.

- 1-2 years
- 2-3 years
- 3-4 years
- 4-5 years
- None of the Above

Answer: 3-4 years

Apprenticeships, which generally take 3-4 years to complete, offer on-the-job training along with classroom instruction.

6. How old do you have to be to start an apprenticeship program?

- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20

Answer: 18

18, a U.S. citizen and have high school graduate.

7. During a typical year in an apprenticeship program a student will spend _____ hours of technical training and _____ hours of practical training in the field?

- 100/1000
- 144/2000
- 231/2300
- 311/2700

Answer: 144/2000

For each year of an aspiring carpenter's apprenticeship, he or she will complete at least 144 hours of technical training and 2000 hours of practical training in the field.

8. Though it is not mandatory to break into the profession, aspiring carpenters may complete formal carpentry programs at technical schools or colleges

- True
- False

Answer: True

This formal training offers additional experience in the trade. Diploma, certificate, and associate's degree programs are all available in carpentry. Educational coursework includes building codes, concrete work, blueprint reading, roof framing, building materials, tools, building layouts, and fasteners..

Credit

- x Bureau of Labor and Statistics
- x Study.com

