

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES CAREER GUIDE



Careers in building and construction are always in demand for skilled employees with many career paths open to people ready to build a brighter future. Whether you're interested in becoming a business owner or working as part of a team to bring creative visions to life, construction offers exciting, future-focused opportunities. Use this guide to see if a career in construction is right for you. Then visit LevelUpKS.com to complete the form and discover if you're eligible to earn a degree or certificate for **FREE!**

BY THE NUMBERS

AVERAGE SALARY

\$25.13/hour | \$52,267/year

DEMAND
HIGH

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Certificate to Associate
Degree (less than
1 year to 2 years)
Apprenticeship

EDUCATION LOCATIONS

20+ community colleges and
technical schools, online and
in-person program options

HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

- Building & Construction Worker
- Masonry & Concrete Work
- Sheet Metal Assembly
- Welder
- HVAC Technician
- Electrician
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Carpenter
- Construction Manager
- Computer Aided Drafter
- Plumber

Read the guide to learn more about each position.

IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU?

If this sounds like you, you may be a good fit.

- Enjoy working with your hands
- Like to see physical results from your work
- Are detail-oriented
- Work well as part of a team
- Like to follow a plan, but also enjoy troubleshooting and problem-solving

TYPES OF EDUCATION

- **Certificates** – short, skill-focused programs
- **Associate Degrees** – general education and specific training
- **Apprenticeships** – on-the-job training with education

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GET STARTED IN 1 YEAR OR LESS

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Average Salary: \$19.71/hour | \$41,000/year

Education Required: Certificate

Time to complete education: Less than 1 year to 1 year

Heavy Equipment Operators are key members of a construction crew. They operate bulldozers, excavators, rollers, cranes, asphalt and concrete paving equipment and other heavy equipment.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

Average Salary: \$34.15/hour | \$71,040/year

Education Required: Certificate to Associate Degree

Time to complete education: 1 year to 2 years

Construction Managers plan, coordinate, and supervise construction projects from start to finish. They create and manage budgets and schedules and hire and coordinate all teams. They confirm that regulations are met throughout the process and communicate with teams, supervisors, and clients regularly. Previous construction experience is required.

SHEET METAL ASSEMBLY

Average Salary: \$24.50/hour | \$50,960/year

Education Required: Certificate, Apprenticeship

Time to complete education: 1 year, 4 year apprenticeship

Sheet metal workers use pieces of thin steel, aluminum, or other alloyed metal in both manufacturing and construction, often shaping the metal to fit specifications. They interpret blueprints and use specialized tools and equipment for precise work.

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION WORKER

Average Salary: \$19.00/hour | \$39,520/year

Education Required: Certificate to Associate Degree

Time to complete education: Less than 1 year to 2 years

Building and Construction Workers construct buildings and infrastructure using physical labor and heavy machinery. They create structural frameworks, lay foundations, install electrical and plumbing systems, and apply finishes and tiles.

CARPENTER

Average Salary: \$24.38/hour | \$50,710/year

Education Required: Certificate to Associate Degree, Apprenticeship

Time to complete education: 1 year to 2 years, 4 year apprenticeship

Carpenters cut, measure, and shape wood to create building structures and furniture. They interpret blueprints and building plans, are skilled in the operation of various carpentry tools, and are adept at creating accurate measurements.

MASONRY & CONCRETE WORKER

Average Salary: \$23.55/hour | \$48,990/year

Education Required: Certificate

Time to complete education: Less than 1 year to 1 year

Masonry & Concrete Workers build structures with concrete, bricks, and natural stones. They use primarily hand-held tools to smooth mortar and shape stone structures. Masonry Workers often read manuals and technical drawings to determine the details of a task.

**Listed salaries are approximate and intended as estimates only. Actual offers may differ based on education, geographic location, economic conditions, and other factors.*

READY TO GO?

Visit [LevelUpKS.com](https://levelupks.com) and complete the form to find out if you can earn a degree or certificate for **FREE!**

Level Up Kansas is a free service for Kansans 18+



BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES CERTIFICATES AND ASSOCIATE DEGREES



GET STARTED IN 1-2 YEARS

WELDER

Average Salary: **\$23.30/hour | \$48,460/year**

Education Required: **Certificate to Associate Degree**

Time to complete education: **1-2 Years**

Welders use their skills to join metals together with different techniques and forms. Welders use high heat and heavy machinery to repair or create structures and machinery. They interpret blueprints and use a variety of techniques to fine-tune details in welding projects.

HVAC TECHNICIAN

Average Salary: **\$26.09/hour | \$54,270/year**

Education Required: **Certificate to Associate Degree**

Time to complete education: **1-2 years**

HVAC technicians ensure that heating and air conditioning systems work properly to control the temperature, humidity, and overall air quality in buildings. Some HVAC technicians specialize in one or more aspects of HVAC, such as radiant heating systems, testing and balancing, or commercial refrigeration in establishments such as grocery stores, hotels, and restaurants.



COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTER

Average Salary: **\$25.28/hour | \$52,582/year**

Education Required: **Certificate to Associate Degree**

Time to complete education: **2 years**

Drafters use software to convert the designs of architects and engineers into precise technical drawings that guide the construction process. Most workers specialize in architectural, civil, electrical, or mechanical drafting and use technical drawings to help design everything from microchips to skyscrapers.

PLUMBER

Average Salary: **\$27.72/hour | \$57,660/year**

Education Required: **Certificate to Associate Degree, Apprenticeship**

Time to complete education: **1-2 years, 5 year apprenticeship**

Plumbers install and maintain piping systems for water, gas, drainage, and plumbing appliances in buildings. Plumbers have a good understanding of blueprints, safety codes, and problem-solving skills to address leaks and other plumbing issues.

ELECTRICIAN

Average Salary: **\$28.73/hour | \$59,750/year**

Education Required: **Certificate to Associate Degree Apprenticeship**

Time to complete education: **1-2 years, 4 year apprenticeship**

Electricians repair, install, and maintain electrical components. They work in various settings, from telephone poles to wiring systems in homes and industrial facilities. Electricians also inspect electrical structures to determine their safety and integrity.

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BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES CAREERS



JOBS AT A GLANCE

CAREER PATH	AVERAGE HOURLY WAGE	AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY	LESS THAN ONE YEAR CERTIFICATE	1-2 YEAR CERTIFICATE	ASSOCIATE DEGREE	APPRENTICESHIP
Building & Construction Worker	\$19.00	\$39,520	✓	✓		
Heavy Equipment Operator	\$19.71	\$41,000	✓	✓		
Masonry & Concrete Worker	\$23.55	\$48,990	✓	✓		
Carpenter	\$24.38	\$50,710		✓	✓	✓
Sheet Metal Assembly	\$24.50	\$50,960		✓		✓
Construction Manager	\$34.15	\$71,040		✓	✓	
Welder	\$23.30	\$48,460		✓	✓	
Computer Aided Drafter	\$25.28	\$52,582			✓	
HVAC Technician	\$26.09	\$54,270		✓	✓	
Plumber	\$27.72	\$57,660		✓	✓	✓
Electrician	\$28.73	\$59,750		✓	✓	✓

READY TO GO BUT NOT SURE WHERE TO START?

We're here to help. Level Up Kansas is a **FREE** service for Kansans 18+. We provide unbiased information about certificates and 2-year degree programs at Kansas community colleges and technical colleges. We can also provide resources to help you find existing scholarships and financial aid opportunities that may be available to you.

To get started, visit [LevelUpKS.com](https://levelupks.com) and complete the form to work with our free navigator service. We'll help you figure out your next steps.

STILL HAVEN'T FOUND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

Don't give up. Check out the career guides for Healthcare, Manufacturing, Early Childhood Education, Computer Science, and Agriculture on our website.