What can I do with a degree in...

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT?

Why study **CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT?**

The Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Management (CM) is designed for students interested in the technical and professional aspects of managing a construction project from inception to completion. The CM program provides insight into the inner workings of the construction industry.

WCU's Construction Management curriculum sets out to meet specific learning objectives established by the Construction Management Association of America, and prepares each student with particular knowledge and analytic skills to ensure their success in the industry. Graduates of the Construction Management Program will apply their technical knowledge as practicing professionals or engage in graduate education; work successfully in their chosen career individually and within a professional team environment; and engage in professional development in their profession by adapting to new technology and career challenges.

What is the **DEGREE OPTION?**

Bachelor of Construction Management with minor in Business Administration

NOTE: There is also an option to minor in Construction Management. A Master of Construction Management degree is also offered at WCU.

What is the **UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION PROCESS?**

Any currently enrolled student at WCU may declare Construction Management as an undergraduate major by visiting the Advising Center and filling out the proper paperwork. There is no formal application process for declaring a CM undergraduate major. Please make an appointment with your advisor via your MyWCU student portal.

What **JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?**

Graduates of the CM program will move up through the profession either through the project superintendent career path or through a construction management career path to the position of project manager. The next level of advancement is either manager of multiple projects, vice president, president or chief executive officer of a construction firm or owner of a company. With a degree in construction management, students have the option of several different career paths. Typical starting positions include inspectors, contract administrators, schedulers, estimators, cost control, project controls, site engineers, purchasing, quantity surveyors, solar energy systems designers, transportation systems designers, building services engineers, facilities managers, assistant construction managers, construction managers, assistant project managers, and project managers.

Who employs **CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT** graduates?

Our graduates work for variety of employers including national, regional, and local construction businesses; construction subcontractors; federal and state government contractors, and construction suppliers in the commercial, residential, mechanical, electrical, industrial, heavy highway, and marine sectors.

MAJOR MAP

How to use this map: Review the four categories and suggestions of activities and when you should consider engaging in them. Remember, these are just suggestions! There is a fillable space for you to add in any other ideas you have to set yourself up for success in life after college.

	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR
EXCEL IN ACADEMICS	Coursework your first year will focus on introductory CM topics, as well as electives and requirements such as Pre-Calculus and Physics. Check out the **8-semester plan** and make an appointment with your advisor.	The second year continues with the CM topics, liberal arts requirements, and additional math courses. Business-related courses such as Marketing and Accounting are also introduced. Check out the **8-semester plan** and make an appointment with your advisor.
GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE	Check out **WCU's DegreePlus program** and choose which events in any of the four categories you want to attend. Categories include: Professionalism, Teamwork, Leadership, or Cultural Responsiveness. See what on-campus employment opportunities are available by logging in to JobCat via your MyWCU.	Consider joining the WCU Construction Management Club. If you are thinking about attending a graduate school, start engaging in hands-on experiences required in graduate school admissions. Engage deeper with **DegreePlus;** choose an additional competency to complete
BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY	Connect with the **Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning** and ask about the **Spark Award,** a program aimed to encourage and recognize students who are connected with their community.	Develop deeper relationships with the organizations for which you volunteer. Ask for special projects or responsibilities that you can highlight on a resume. If you want to **study abroad,** this is a good year to have that experience. The Study Abroad Office has excellent suggestions on places to go to study Construction Management specifically.
PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER COLLEGE	Further explore your career options or career interests using the **Center for Career and Professional Development's** online resources, **Focus 2,** and **Onet Online.** Connect with a career counselor early on to explore opportunities and experiences you can do while in college to further develop your professional resume.	Attend the annual Construction & Engineering Career Fair and the annual Career Fair Plus event to identify summer, part-time, or internship opportunities for additional hands-on opportunities. Start a spreadsheet of graduate schools you wish to apply to in a few years; label your spreadsheet with each school's admission requirements and application materials so that you are aware of the expectations.

Looking for a minor? Consider these options:

Accounting
Business Administration and Law
Management
Marketing
Mathematics
Physics

3rd YEAR	4th YEAR
Courses in your third year will focus heavily on upper-level CM topics and finishing liberal studies. Check out the **8-semester plan** and make an appointment with your advisor. A 400-hour internship is required and is typically completed during the summer between the 3rd and 4th year.	Courses in your final year will continue to focus on upper-level CM and business-related topics. Be sure to check out the **8-semester plan,** make an appointment with your advisor, and complete your degree audit, and **apply for graduation!**
Volunteer with nonprofits that focus on your ideal career path. For example, **Habitat for Humanity** often has small construction projects that need to be completed.	Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or graduate school admissions. Assess what skills or experiences you're lacking and invest time in seeking additional opportunities such as certification programs, classes, or professional development workshops during your last year to fill that gap. Connect with your faculty advisor or career counselor.
Consider networking with professionals in your field. **Construction Management Association of America** has numerous networking events listed. Contact the CCPD for help in your internship search.	Join professional organizations such as the **Associated Builders and Contractors** or the **Associated General Contractors** Attend the annual Construction & Engineering Career Fair and the annual Career Fair Plus event to identify your next step.
Visit the CCPD to hone your professional resume and cover letter (Make an appointment through MyWCU). Utilize the **Writing and Learning Commons** for GRE, and other professional exam preparation sessions. Take the GRE, etc. Use **Big Interview** to learn more about professional interviews. Schedule a visit to tour graduate schools of your choice, if applicable.	Apply to graduate schools, if applicable. Look for and apply for jobs between 6 and 8 months before graduation. Polish your resume, cover letter, and interview skills by vising the **CCPD.**

DID YOU KNOW? Internships are still the number-one educational experience employers look for in a recent college graduate resume. (Chronicle of Higher Education's study on 50,000 employers)

MORE INFORMATION

INTERNSHIP Information

Undergraduate students who are working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management are required to complete an internship, which can be fulfilled in one of the three semesters (summer, fall or spring) prior to graduation.

Students receive two credits for successfully completing a one-semester internship prior to graduation. Work experience of 400 hours in the construction industry approved in advance by the Instructor of Record. Upon completion of this course, students will have gained experience in project-based work in the construction industry and will have learned how to:

- Apply construction management concepts to construction projects
- Work in a project-team environment
- Meet deadlines and work under pressure
- Interface with the various different members of the construction industry

SKILLS LEARNED in the classroom

The core competencies will center on developing skills, knowledge, and attitudes such as:

- contracts and specifications
- safety protocols
- quality control
- land development
- business and accounting concepts
- information handling and oganization
- critical thinking skills
- problem solving
- teamwork
- leadership

KNOWLEDGE Base

This program will prepare students to:

- Identify, formulate, and solve broadly defined technical or scientific problems by applying knowledge of mathematics and science and/or technical topics to areas relevant to the discipline.
- Formulate or design a system, process, procedure or program to meet desired needs.
- Develop and conduct experiments or test hypotheses, analyze and interpret data and use scientific judgment to draw conclusions.
- Communicate effectively with a range of audiences.
- Understand ethical and professional responsibilities and the impact of technical and/or scientific solutions in global, economic, environmental, and societal contexts.
- Function effectively on teams that establish goals, plan tasks, meet deadlines, and analyze risk and uncertainty.

Professional **RESOURCES**

- American Institute of Contractors: www.aic-builds.org
- Associated Builders and Contractors: www.abc.org
- Associated General Contractors: agc.org
- Construction Management Association of America: cmaanet.org

QUESTIONS?

For questions, please call the Construction Management program at 828-227-2201 or visit cm.wcu.edu.

To schedule an appointment with a career counselor, contact the Center for Career and Professional Development, 828-227-7133 or careerservices@wcu.edu.

Western Carolina UNIVERSITY