



Construction Trades Helper (Pre-apprenticeship Certificate Training)

Construction laborers and helpers work on almost all construction sites, performing a wide range of tasks from the very simple to the extremely complex and sometimes hazardous. Although many of the tasks they perform require training and experience, some tasks can be learned quickly. They operate hand and power tools of all types including air hammers, earth tampers, cement mixers, small mechanical hoists, surveying and measuring equipment, as well as a variety of other equipment.

Additional responsibilities include cleaning and preparing sites, setting braces to support the sides of excavations, erecting scaffolding, and cleaning up rubble, debris and other waste materials. Construction Trade Helpers also assist other craft workers, such as carpenters, electricians, plasterers, and masons as they continue to learn their trade through on-the-job training.

Most laborers and helpers work full-time. Although they sometimes stop work because of bad weather, they often work overtime to meet deadlines. Laborers and helpers on highway and bridge projects may need to work overnight to avoid major disruptions to traffic.

In some parts of the country, construction laborers and helpers may only work full-time during certain seasons. While construction professions can sometimes be dangerous, construction workers are responsible for building and maintaining homes, offices, factories, businesses and roads.

Indiana Wage Information

	Entry	Median
Hourly Wage	\$10.33	\$12.68

Job Outlook in Indiana

Long term	18.2 % (increase)
Short Term	3.7 % (increase)

*Data collected from hoosierdata.in.gov

Job Duties

- Control traffic near, in, or around work zones
- Clean or prepare sites to eliminate possible hazards
- Signal equipment operators for alignment or movement of machinery, equipment, or materials
- Read plans, instructions, or specifications to determine work activities
- Load, unload, or identify building materials
- Measure or mark distances according to layout areas where work will be performed
- Tend to pumps, compressors, or generators to provide power for tools and machinery
- Erect or dismantle scaffolding, shoring, braces, traffic barricades, ramps, or other structures
- Provide assistance to craft workers, such as carpenters, electricians or plumbers

Important Qualities

Physical strength – must be in good shape in order to do substantial amounts of bending, lifting, and kneeling

Dexterity – must have good hand-eye coordination

Detail oriented - must do precise work, often with straight edges and minimal flaws

Team-player – must be able to work with others on a team

Listening skills – must be able to follow instructions from a supervisor

Customer-service skills – must be friendly, polite, and punctual when working in customers' homes and in business offices

Skills and Knowledge

Technical

- Knowledge of materials, methods, and tools involved in construction or repair of houses, buildings, or other structures such as highways and roads
- Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance
- Knowledge of relevant equipment, policies, procedures, and strategies to promote effective safety

English Language Arts

- Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents

Math

- Knowledge of basic math calculations (fractions to decimals)
- Knowledge of measurements and their applications

Certification and Advancement

Pre-apprenticeship services and programs are designed to prepare individuals to enter and succeed in Registered Apprenticeship programs. These programs have a documented partnership with at least one Registered Apprenticeship program sponsor and together, they expand the participant's career pathway opportunities with industry-based training coupled with classroom instruction. Pre-apprenticeship training is a great way for students to streamline the recruitment process to a formal apprenticeship program.

Several groups, including unions and contractor associations, sponsor apprenticeship programs. Apprenticeship programs usually have a basic age qualification—age 18 or older—for entrance. A high school diploma or equivalent is preferred. Through experience and training, construction laborers can advance into positions that involve more complex tasks.

Programs generally include 2 to 4 years of technical instruction and on-the-job training. Workers learn basic construction skills, such as communication, blueprint reading, proper tools and equipment use, and safety and health procedures. The remainder of the curriculum consists of specialized skills training in three of the largest segments of the construction industry: building construction, heavy and highway construction, and environmental remediation for removing such materials as lead or asbestos.

A person who has completed formal apprenticeship and is fully educated in a trade or craft is recognized as a journeyman. State licensing boards also license different types of journeypeople, which they often refer to as master skilled-tradesmen, a designation recognized in all states.

How can Adult Education teachers get involved?

The world of work relies on the foundational skills students acquire in your classrooms and/or programs!

- Know your students'/clients' interests and career goals
- Affirm the value of the skills/hobbies students demonstrate both in and outside of the classroom
- Infuse your classroom culture and/or meetings with career-minded activities
- Provide time to make connections between the material learned in adult education or workshops and students' daily lives/career aspirations
- Know the basic job descriptions and training requirements of in-demand occupations in your area
- Know which WorkINDiana programs are available in your region
- Know the processes for referring students to postsecondary or on-the-job training
- Post resources where students can find more information about further education/training and careers