

ABOUT HOME BUILDERS INSTITUTE (HBI)

HBI is a national leader for career training in the building industry. Through certification programs, mentoring, pre-apprenticeships and job placement services, HBI prepares its students—including at-risk and underserved populations such as youth, veterans, ex-offenders and displaced workers—with the skills and experience they need for successful careers in the building industry.

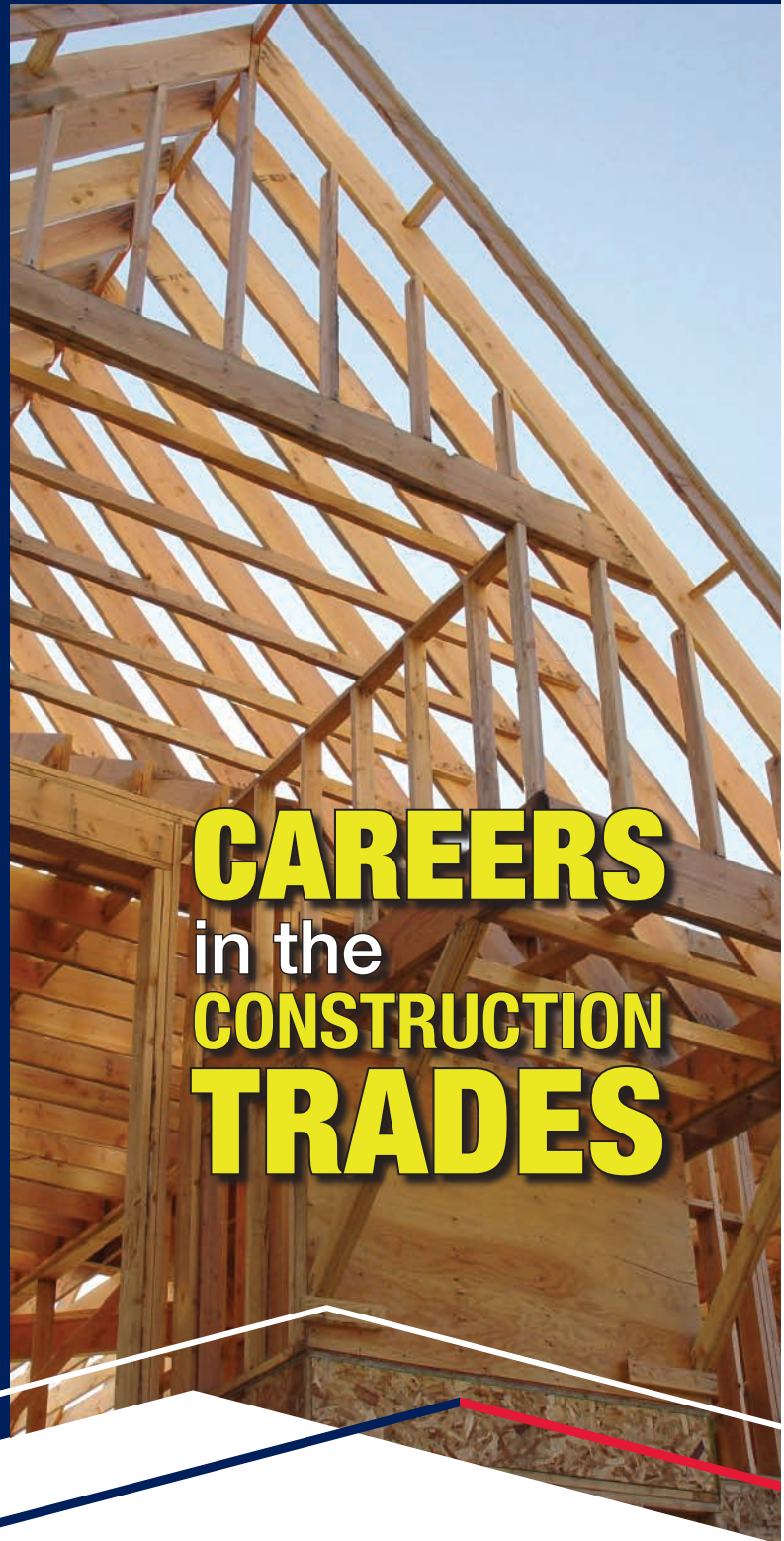


ABOUT NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS (NAHB)

NAHB is a Washington-based trade association representing more than 140,000 members involved in home building, remodeling, multifamily construction, property management, subcontracting, design, housing finance, building product manufacturing and other aspects of residential and light commercial construction. NAHB is affiliated with 800 state and local home builders associations around the country. NAHB's builder members will construct about 80 percent of the new housing units projected for this year.



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CAREERS
in the
CONSTRUCTION
TRADES



NAHB Student
Chapters

Careers in the Construction Trades

What the experts are saying:

- **Harvard Graduate School of Education** “By 2018, fields like construction and manufacturing will provide nearly 8 million job openings, 2.7 million of which will require a post-secondary credential.”¹
- **Construction Labor Market Analyzer** “...one-sixth of the workforce will leave the industry over the next decade... more than 2 million new craft professionals will be needed in our industry by 2017.”²
- **Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)** “Employment of construction laborers and helpers is projected to grow 25 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations. Laborers and helpers work in all fields of construction, and demand for these workers will mirror the level of overall construction activity.”³
- **Associated General Contractors of America** “Construction employers added 29,000 jobs in February 2015 and 321,000 jobs over the past year, reaching the highest employment total in six years, as the sector’s unemployment rate fell to an eight year low of 10.6 percent.”⁴

The skilled trades differ greatly in training and education required, working conditions, and earning potential. The salaries quoted in this brochure are annual national averages as of May, 2014 compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). However, salaries may vary significantly depending on the size of the company, location, and years of experience and education required.



8 MILLION

Estimated New Job Openings by 2018



2.7 MILLION

Estimated New Jobs Requiring Post-Secondary Education by 2018



2+ MILLION

Craft Professionals Needed by 2017



25%

Estimated Growth



321,000

Construction Jobs Added in 2014

CONNECTING to Local Home Builders Associations BUILDS PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) is a Washington, DC-based trade association of nearly 140,000 members. The NAHB Student Chapters program offers your students a unique out-of-classroom experience with the opportunity to build connections to the residential construction industry. Through networking with local building professionals at more than 700 local home builder associations across the country, students gain direct access to internships and jobs where they develop leadership skills and learn more about their chosen career. Establishing a Student Chapter at your school is easy and certainly should be on your list for the upcoming academic year.

ENDNOTES

¹ Pathways to Prosperity Project, Harvard Graduate School of Education. *Pathways to Prosperity: Meeting the Challenge of Preparing Young Americans for the 21st Century*, February, 2011, page 3.

² Construction Labor Market Analyzer’s (CLMA) *20/20 Foresight Report: Will Industry Find Enough Skilled Labor— In Time?* Winter 2014

³ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 2014-15 Edition, Construction Laborers and Helpers.

⁴ Associated General Contractors of America, March 6, 2015. Retrieved from <https://www.agc.org/construction-firms-add-2900-jobs-february-industry-employment-highest-level-20009-sector%E2%80%99s>.

CARPENTRY

If you like working with wood and take pride in seeing something made with your own hands, then this is the trade for you. Carpenters are needed in all areas of construction and are often employed through the entire construction process. Thus, it is one of the most secure jobs within the industry. Many carpenters like to build and fix their own homes and run their own businesses in addition to working on a crew.

Earning Potential: According to the BLS, the 2014 national average wage for carpenters was **\$45,590/year**. Employment for carpenters is expected to **grow 24 percent** from 2012-2022. (The average growth rate for all occupations is 11 percent.)

In the carpentry trade you will learn to:

- Frame floors, walls, ceilings and roofs
- Build concrete forms

- Apply plywood, roof paper and shingles
- Build and set cabinets and countertops
- Install doors, windows, trim and siding
- Install floor joists, rafters and trusses
- Lay wood flooring
- Operate table saws, power drills, routers, joiners, planers and nail guns

Once you complete training, you have a variety of employment options:

- Apprenticeship programs
- Home builders
- Sub-contractors
- Remodelers
- Commercial builders
- General contractors



\$45,590
Average National Wage

24%
Growth Estimated by 2022



\$54,520
Average National Wage

20%
Growth Estimated by 2022

ELECTRICAL

Modern life would not be possible without electricians.

If you like to know how electric currents make things work, then this is the trade for you. Qualified electricians are always in demand. With your tools and knowledge, you can go practically anywhere in the country.

Earning Potential: According to the BLS, the 2014 national average wage for electricians was **\$54,520/year**. Employment for electricians is expected to **grow 20 percent** from 2012-2022. (The average growth rate for all occupations is 11 percent.)

In the electrical trade you will learn to:

- Cut, bend and install metal conduits and wiring
- Hook up electrical appliances
- Install electrical switches and lighting fixtures
- Wire door bells and fire alarms
- Repair power cords and plugs
- Use equipment for testing circuitry
- Safely handle power tools
- Ensure work is done according to relevant codes

Once you complete training, you have a variety of employment options:

- Apprenticeship program
- Electrical contractors
- Sub-contractors
- Maintenance company

MASONRY

Laying brick is one of the oldest and most respected trades in the construction industry. Masonry construction uses brick, stone, marble, granite, travertine, limestone, cast stone, concrete block, glass block, stucco, and tile. Qualified cement masons are always in demand to place foundations, patios, sidewalks and curbs.

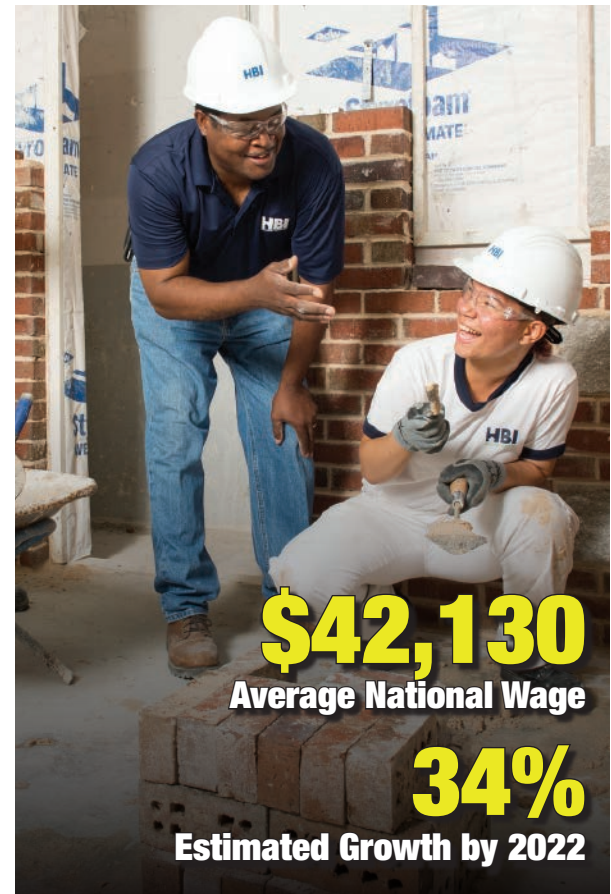
Earning Potential: According to the BLS, the 2014 national average wage for brickmasons, blockmasons and stonemasons was **\$42,130/year**. Employment for masonry is expected to **grow 34 percent** from 2012-2022. (The average growth rate for all occupations is 11 percent.)

In the masonry trade you will learn to:

- Mix mortar and lay brick
- Lay out building lines and grades
- Lay floors and stairs
- Mix and place concrete
- Create different textures
- Apply various finishes to concrete

Once you complete training, you have a variety of employment options:

- Apprenticeship programs
- Masonry contractors
- Sub-contractors
- General contractors



PAINTING

Whenever a home is built, nearly all of the interior and some of the exterior surfaces need to be painted to protect them from damage by water, mold and corrosion. Painting and maintaining painted surfaces improves the appearance and increases the value of a house. There is always great demand for experienced painters.

Earning Potential: According to the BLS, the 2014 national average wage for painters was **\$39,760/year**. Employment for painting is expected to **grow 20 percent** from 2012-2022. (The average growth rate for all occupations is 11 percent.)

In the painting trade you will learn to:

- Prepare all types of surfaces – wood, drywall, plaster and masonry
- Mix colors and use a tint machine
- Apply paint, stain, clear finishes, sealants and fillers
- Sand or waterblast
- Use typical and airless spray equipment

Once you complete training, you have a variety of employment options:

- Drywall contractors
- Painting contractors
- Sub-contractors
- Residential contractors

PLUMBING

Nearly all areas of construction rely on plumbers. If you enjoy working with your hands and using your brain, then this is the trade for you. As long as there are drainage and water systems, there will be a need for reliable plumbers. Plumbers install, repair, and maintain pipes in residential, commercial and/or industrial buildings. Their job includes welding and connecting pipes, opening walls and floors to reach or install pipes, and testing pipes for leaks.

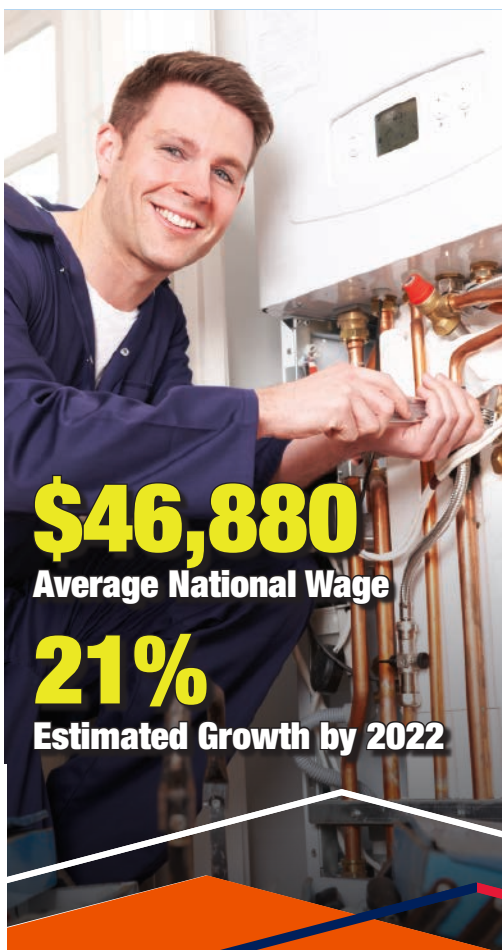
Earning Potential: According to the BLS, the 2014 national average wage for plumbers was **\$54,620/year**. Employment for plumbing is expected to **grow 21 percent** from 2012-2022. (The average growth rate for all occupations is 11 percent.)

In the plumbing trade you will learn to:

- Identify hand and power tools
- Cut and install pipes and fittings
- Install fixtures and hot water heaters
- Test water lines for leaks
- Make underground pipe connections
- Install sprinkler systems
- Weld properly

Once you complete training, you have a variety of employment options:

- Plumbing contractors
- Remodelers
- High-rise and apartment complexes
- Sub-contractors



HVACR

HEATING, VENTILATION, AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION MECHANICS AND INSTALLERS

Install or repair heating, ventilation, and central air conditioning or refrigeration systems, including oil burners, hot-air furnaces and heating stoves. Use your knowledge of green technology to ensure safe and healthy building conditions in homes, hospitals, schools and office building. Consumers are replacing older, less efficient systems with new green models increasing the demand HVAC technicians.

Earning Potential: According to the BLS, the 2014 national average wage for HVACR technicians was **\$46,880/year**. Employment for HVACR is expected to **grow 21 percent** from 2012-2022. (The average growth rate for all occupations is 11 percent.)

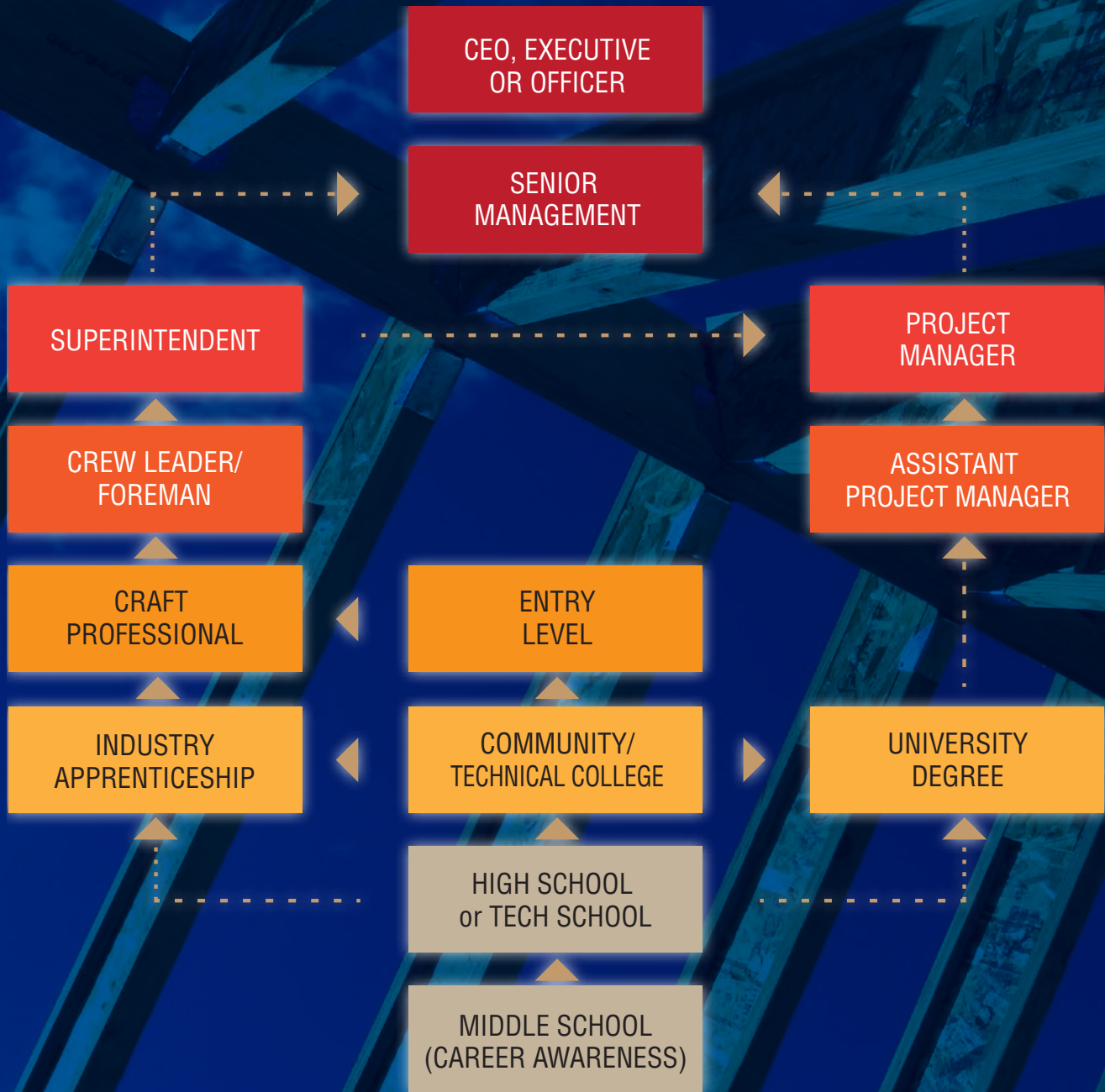
In the HVACR trade you will learn:

- How to maintain, repair and diagnose equipment related to HVACR technology
- Energy auditing
- Green alternatives
- Air conditioning design and layout
- Refrigerant systems
- System charging and system evacuation
- Water treatment
- Boiler operation and safety

Once you complete training, you have a variety of employment options:

- Commercial service technician
- Heating system installer
- Heating, Air conditioning and plumbing contractors
- HVACR mechanic
- Maintain and repair climate control for businesses, schools and hospitals

CONSTRUCTION CAREERS LADDER



CEO, EXECUTIVE
OR OFFICER

SENIOR
MANAGEMENT

SUPERINTENDENT

PROJECT
MANAGER

CREW LEADER/
FOREMAN

ASSISTANT
PROJECT MANAGER

CRAFT
PROFESSIONAL

ENTRY
LEVEL

INDUSTRY
APPRENTICESHIP

COMMUNITY/
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY
DEGREE

HIGH SCHOOL
or TECH SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL
(CAREER AWARENESS)