

Carpenters

**Median hourly
earnings:
\$17.57**

**Median annual
earnings:
\$37,100**

Occupation Description

Carpenters are involved in many different kinds of construction, from the building of highways and bridges to the installation of kitchen cabinets. Carpenters build and repair buildings, furniture, cabinets, etc., made from wood and other materials.

Education and Training Needed

Carpenters learn their trade through formal and informal training programs. Between 3 and 4 years of both on-the-job training and classroom instruction usually is needed to become a skilled carpenter. There are a number of ways to train, but a more formal training program often improves job opportunities.

Training Providers

[Washington DC School of Carpentry](#)

9109 Westphalia Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
Phone: (301) 736-1696

Carpentry Apprenticeship

The Carpentry Apprenticeship program is a four-year program. The first three years consist of on-the-job training and classroom instruction, which includes blueprint reading, math, trade science, and lab. The apprentice attends school year-round, one week every three months. The school is set on a quarter schedule with the apprentice attending twelve quarters within three years, thus fulfilling the 660 school hours as required by the Apprenticeship Standards. No tuition.

[Spanish Catholic Center of Catholic Community Service](#)

1618 Monroe St, NW
Washington, DC 20010
Phone: (202) 939-2426

Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Program

The Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Program is free for DC & MD residents who are 18 years old. There is a weekly stipend offered in addition to weekly bus passes and T-shirts. The class runs Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with three cycles during the year with on-going registration. Ten-week classes include: Construction Safety OSHA-10, Technical ESL for Construction, Occupational Math, skills for employment search, Flaggers Safety, CPR training and Job Referral Assistance with Union Trades and Construction Companies. Hands-on practice at DC Habitat for Humanity every Thursday.

Washington Area Women In the Trades (WAWIT)

624 Ninth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 626-0700

Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Program

WAWIT is a 9-week, nontraditional employment training program with a classroom and experiential-based curriculum that prepares women for high-paying construction trade careers like carpentry, mechanics, electrician, plumber and more. Developed by Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW), YWCA, and the Community Services Agency of the Metro Washington Council, AFL-CIO, the program offers hands-on construction skills training at local trade union training sites with opportunities for certification; Adult Basic Education, Pre-GED and computer classes; job placement assistance; and comprehensive support services before, during and after job placement.