Carpenter

SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION

Overview

Learn how to build, fix and improve houses and other structures using wood, metal and other materials.

For homes, businesses or industrial structures, you'll read drawings and instructions before deciding what materials to use and how to get the job done. You'll measure and mark materials before cutting and shaping them. Then, you'll join them together using nails, screws, bolts and glue. Finally, you'll check to make sure everything is straight, level and the right size, shape and location.

If you're working on houses, you'll help build basements, walls, roofs and both the interior and exterior of homes. You'll install doors, windows, floors, cabinets, stairs, handrails and trim. If you're working on renovations, you'll repair and remodel existing structures.

For bigger projects, like offices or factories, you'll assemble concrete forms and put up scaffolding. You might also help construct bridges, tunnels, towers and other large structures.

Traits, skills and aptitudes

Carpenters are skilled tradespeople who are motivated and enjoy working with others. This line of work is most fulfilling for those who like working with their hands and in various environments.

To succeed in this trade, you should:

- be a creative thinker
- have good math skills
- come up with unique solutions to solve problems quickly and accurately
- be able to follow and communicate written instructions
- be proficient in using computers
- be collaborative
- be adaptable in a team environment
- be able to stand, crouch or kneel for extended periods
- possess good manual dexterity and balance for working on scaffolding
- know how to use proper lifting techniques
- be committed to maintaining safe work habits.

Credentials

Upon successfully completing the required working hours and technical training periods, you'll be awarded an advanced diploma in addition to journeyperson status by Alberta's Apprenticeship and Industry Training.

This is a Red Seal Endorsed trade – a recognizable standard that allows tradespeople to work across Canada.

Admission requirements

To enter an apprenticeship, you must have the educational qualifications required or recommended education for the trade to which you apply.

Entrance requirements are monitored and set by Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training.

Minimum requirements

Successful completion of the following courses:

- English 10-2
- Math 10-3

OR

A pass mark in all five Canadian General Educational Development (GED) or Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC) tests

OR

Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Entrance exam.

Recommended requirements

Apprentices with an Alberta High School diploma that includes the following courses:

- English 30-2
- Math 30-3
- Physics 20 OR Chemistry 20 OR Science 20
- Related career and technology studies (CTS) courses

Costs

2026/27 tuition and fees

The following costs are effective as of July 1, 2026.

Period	Number of weeks	Tuition fees	Additional fees	Total
1	8	$1,256	$357.50	$1,613.50
2	8	$1,256	$357.50	$1,613.50
3	8	$1,256	$357.50	$1,613.50
4	8	$1,256	$357.50	$1,613.50
			Total cost:	**$6,454**

The estimated total cost of tuition and fees in each period of technical training.

Books and Supplies

This is a bring-your-own-device program with standard computer hardware and software requirements. See the specific requirements on our computers and laptops page.

Books or modules, along with other items for classes, are approximately $600 per period.

We recommend you don't purchase books or modules ahead of time as they might be outdated by the time you attend classes, and they cannot be returned to the Bookstore.

This program requires personal protective equipment (PPE), which may be an additional cost.