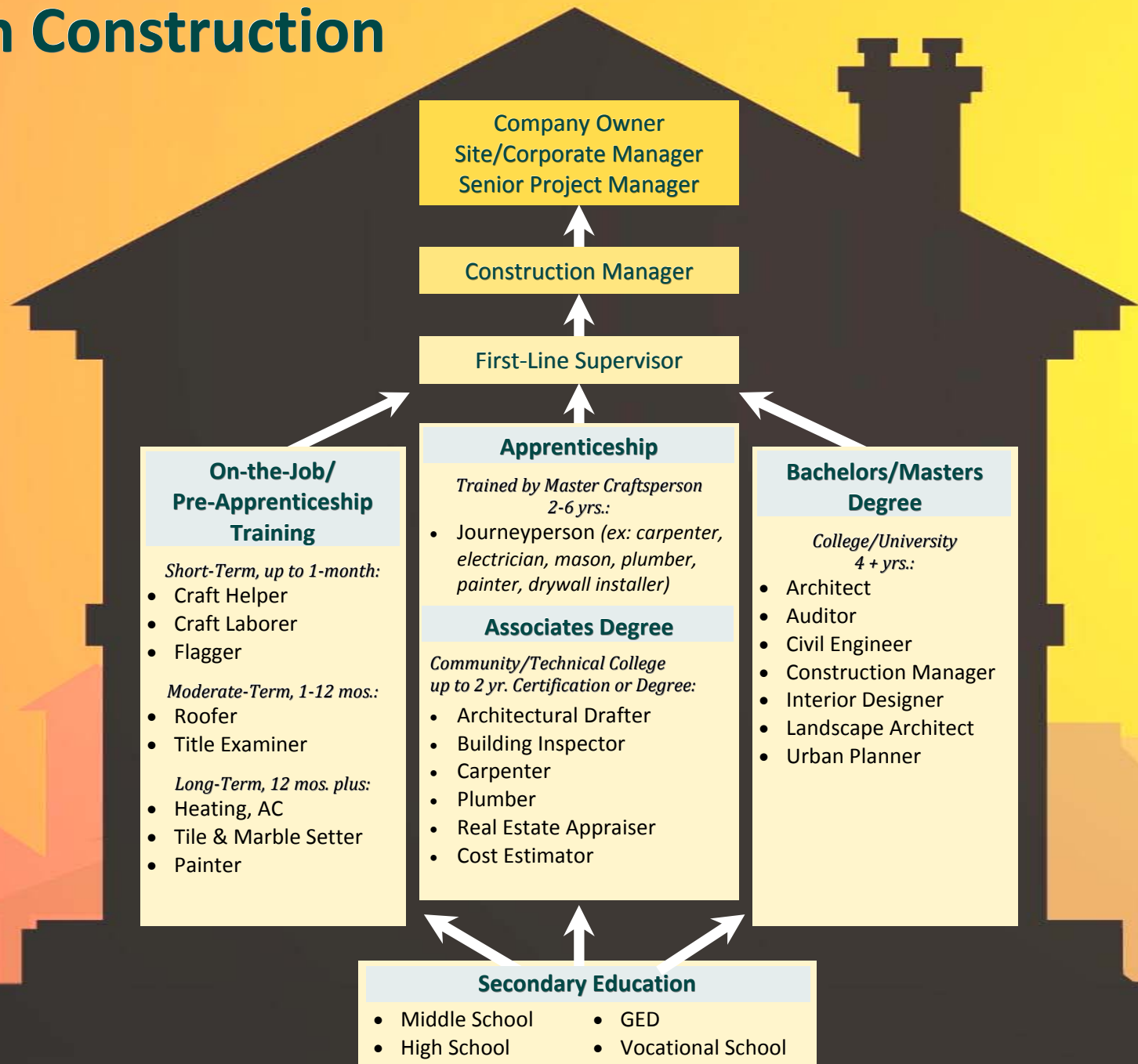


# Career Paths in Construction

Wage Ranges*	
	Starting → + Experience/Education
Electrician	\$17.24 → \$45.83
Heating, AC	\$16.90 → \$39.76
Carpenter	\$14.91 → \$37.12
Cost Estimator	\$18.49 → \$48.90
Drywall Installer	\$13.68 → \$36.91
First Line Supervisor	\$23.81 → \$51.75
Civil Engineer	\$26.45 → \$56.19
Urban Planner	\$22.52 → \$45.18
Construction Manager	\$34.77 → \$80.30

For apprenticeship programs in WA state, go to: [www.lni.wa.gov](http://www.lni.wa.gov), click on "Trades and Licensing", and then click on "Apprenticeship Programs in WA".

A wide range of certificates and degrees are offered by the 11 community and technical colleges located throughout King County. To locate a college near you and learn more about the programs available, visit [www.sbctc.ctc.edu](http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu) and click on "Colleges". Or visit [www.checkoutcollege.com](http://www.checkoutcollege.com).



\* Average hourly wages in the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett MSA, March 2009, [www.workforceexplorer.com](http://www.workforceexplorer.com)

# Construction

## ***Trends***

The construction industry had been a leading source of job growth in Washington State prior to the most recent recession. Glowing predictions have reversed, however, with King County's construction industry average annual growth rate from 2007-2012 estimated at -1.3%. A return growth is predicted for 2012 to 2017, with a 1.9% annual growth rate over that period (Washington State Employment Security Department).

Occupations associated with construction and extraction have a predicted employment in 2017 that is narrowly higher than construction employment in 2007 (a 0.3 percent increase per year over the ten year period).

Training for construction occupations is primarily offered through apprenticeship programs or on the job. To learn more about apprenticeship programs, visit [www.lni.wa.gov](http://www.lni.wa.gov) and click on Trades & Licensing and then click on Apprenticeships.

Increasing county population, continued desirability of the area and the demand for more energy efficiency in buildings will help support growth in the sector over time.

## ***Wages***

The average annual wage in King County for construction in 2009 quarter 1 was \$58,808 (source: Washington State Employment Security Department).

*[Note: Wages are averages of all occupations within the sector – including entry level and high level positions.]*

**For detailed information about occupations within this sector** (e.g. current wage ranges per occupation, training schools, employment projections, and a link to jobs listed at WorkSource):

1. Go to [www.workforceexplorer.com](http://www.workforceexplorer.com),
2. Click on the 'Wage and Benefit Information' link, and
3. Click on the 'Occupation Explorer' link to start your search.

# Resources for Education and Career Planning

## O\*NET Online

<http://online.onetcenter.org>

A nation-wide career exploration resource, the O\*NET database contains information about hundreds of occupations, including job tasks, education requirements, and wages.

## Washington Workforce Explorer

<http://workforceexplorer.com>

Workforce Explorer provides career and economic information for Washington State. You will find career assessment and planning tools in the Career Center section and find occupation wage information by county in the Wage and Benefit information section.

## Washington Career Bridge

[www.careerbridge.wa.gov](http://www.careerbridge.wa.gov)

Career Bridge is a one-stop, searchable database of education and training programs throughout Washington state where you'll discover:

- Available training programs.
- Average earnings and employment outlook for each career choice.
- Hot jobs for the future.
- What you'll need to learn to get those jobs.

This site was created by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, a partnership of labor, business and government.

## Self-Sufficiency Calculator

[www.thecalculator.org](http://www.thecalculator.org)

The Calculator includes a variety of resources, including the Self Sufficiency Standard. The Self Sufficiency Standard for Washington measures how much income is needed for a family of a given composition - ranging from a one person household to a large family - in a given place, to adequately meet basic needs without any public or private assistance. The Self Sufficiency Calculator can help you:

- Plan and develop career goals so you can work towards a better paying job.
- Decide if a job you are considering will pay enough to meet your family's needs.
- Determine if you might be eligible for public benefits that can help with expenses like health care or child care.
- Test and compare different work or living options and see how they affect your bottom line.

## WorkSource

[www.go2worksource.com](http://www.go2worksource.com) (Statewide) • [www.worksourceskc.org](http://www.worksourceskc.org) (Seattle-King County)

Washington's career and employment website offering information about career services available at local WorkSource offices as well as a number of career planning and job search tools and links.