The vibrant Building and Construction industry, which has been fuelled by a significant increase in the demand for housing, offers qualified carpenters and joiners lucrative careers.

Carpenters and joiners may work for project home builders who employ subcontractors in specialised areas or for private builders who employ apprentices and trades people in renovation and extensions as well as in the construction of unique, custom-designed homes.

Within the commercial sector carpenters undertake formwork and fit out whilst joiners are employed in workshops producing components such as timber windows, doors, and stairs that form an integral part of residential homes as well as industrial and commercial premises.

Building styles across the South West are fairly diverse enabling students to learn a multitude of skills to produce aesthetically pleasing homes appropriate to the environment in which they are situated.

Being involved with a project from the planning to completion stage provides carpenters and joiners with a unique sense of satisfaction and, together with their passion for working with timber, provides a compelling reason for many to pursue this trade.

There are opportunities for self employment, particularly as a sub contractor in specialised areas of roofing and fit out for project home builders.
The scope of carpentry and joinery

Carpenters and joiners are regarded as having a substantial knowledge of the construction process and are often called upon to assist other trades and provide advice. This is because the carpentry and joinery tradespeople are present at the start of the project and continue to be involved with it throughout the different stages of construction. In addition to this, carpenters not only have skills and knowledge relevant to their own trade but also a high level of skill with respect to other building trades.

Carpenters and joiners perform a variety of tasks and work with a range of materials including timber, steel, concrete, plastic, or aluminum and are required to have a specialist knowledge of the properties of each of these materials. The main tasks they perform include:

- Interpreting plans
- Organising and planning processes to use materials effectively
- Resolving potential problems that may arise
- Reading specifications to ensure a high quality finished product that is structurally sound and meets regulatory standards.
- Building sound structures to support concrete until concrete can support itself.
- Knowledge of structural loads and load distribution
- Producing products that can be used inside the house such as timber windows, doors, and stairs
- Good understanding of what services (such as electricity, gas, water) and structures are in existence so that demolitions can be made safely and renovations undertaken effective to join into an existing structure.
- Carrying out maintenance work

Carpenters can progress to the role of a supervisor at a later stage because of their broad knowledge of the building and construction industry.

Personal attributes that will enhance your chances of success in this career include:

- Enjoy working outdoors
- Capacity to develop good hand/eye skills
- Flair for mathematics
- Fit
- Ability to work in a team environment or on your own
- Ability to develop plan reading skills
- Communication skills
- Ability to solve problems

What carpentry and joinery qualifications offer you

The Certificate I in General Construction [Pre-Apprenticeship (Carpentry and Joinery)] will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge to construct, erect, finish and repair wooden and metal structures and fixtures on residential and commercial buildings. You will learn skills in plan reading, using tools, static machinery operation and levelling. You will also learn about joints, roofs, trusses and beams, and the various materials used in the building process. The course will also enhance your capacity to do technical drawing. As part of this qualification you will undertake a supervised work placement where you will be able to apply the skills and knowledge you have learned.

The Certificate III in Carpentry and Joinery is appropriate for the tradesperson working in the carpentry and joinery sector of the construction industry in Western Australia.

Employment opportunities

Successful completion of this qualification provides you with the opportunity to become a form worker or gain an apprenticeship to become a carpenter and joiner. You will need to be employed and registered as an apprentice before you can commence apprenticeship training.

Entry requirements

Certificate I in General Construction [Pre-Apprenticeship (Carpentry and Joinery)]

- Communication skills

Minimum entry requirements for the Certificate III in Carpentry and Joinery include completion of Year 10 with an average level of 3.5 or C grades in each of four learning areas or equivalent. Students should also be indentured apprentices to an employer in the Carpentry and Joinery trade.

Further study options

Apprenticeship

Certificate III in Carpentry and Joinery

Further information

Contact our Information and Career Advisory Officers on 1800 621 445 or (08) 9780 7070
Email: courseinfo@bunbury.training.wa.gov.au
Website: www.swrc.wa.edu.au