

What do Construction Managers do?

Construction managers interact with clients, project managers, architects, engineers, quantity surveyors, subcontractors and materials suppliers.

In construction firms, they are responsible for managing the 'business of construction' and projects. Managing projects and the construction process and completing it successfully requires:

- ▶ Organising the site, plant and equipment, materials, labour and subcontractors.
- ▶ Planning and executing the work in the right sequence.
- ▶ Managing project finance and costs.
- ▶ Promoting and maintaining the reputation and image of the firm.
- ▶ Complying with the legal requirements in respect of:
 - ▶ construction health and safety
 - ▶ business transactions
 - ▶ construction standards

In terms of managing the business of construction, Construction Managers:

- ▶ Plan the future direction of the firm.
- ▶ Market the firm to clients and other stakeholders.
- ▶ Communicate with stakeholders and promote the reputation and image of the firm.
- ▶ Manage and coordinate all projects.
- ▶ Ensure the firm's compliance with legislation.
- ▶ Manage the finances of the firm.

Construction Managers are also involved in:

- ▶ Property finance and development.
- ▶ Materials manufacturing and marketing.
- ▶ Advisory work such as consulting or project management, and education.



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Construction Management

Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment
& Information Technology



Introduction

Construction Management is a holistic built environment discipline in that the related tertiary education addresses three main streams, namely management, economics, science and technology. This empowers construction managers to manage the business of construction, and consequently includes projects as construction managers. Furthermore, many Construction Management graduates become Construction Project Managers, in which capacity they project manage a range of processes related to project initiation and briefing, concept and feasibility, design development, tender documentation and procurement, construction documentation and management, and project close out.

Construction Management is a proactive and demanding discipline as it entails the management of the resources of labour, supervision, knowledge, information, finance, materials, plant and equipment, technology, innovation and subcontractors, both on and off-site, within various built environment stakeholders. These resources, regardless of stakeholder constituency, need to be managed within defined parameters, namely cost, the environment, health and safety, productivity, quality, schedule and satisfaction.

“What is special about Construction Management at NMMU?”

Firstly, the Department of Construction Management presents the Construction Management programme. It is the core business!

Secondly, a construction manager heads the department, which includes “construction management” staff, which has contracting, consulting, research, publishing, lecturing, community service, and professional association related experience. The Department staff also includes an engineer, which provides diversity in terms of knowledge, skills and experience.

Thirdly, from the resources and parameters it will be noted that the department is not “caught up” in the old paradigm of cost, quality and schedule (narrow focus) – people are placed first and foremost: labour, supervision, environment and health and safety.

Our students and graduates have historically been empowered to provide “people centered” leadership. We promote a culture of “better practice” among our students, which is underpinned by a strong research culture directed toward relevant built environment and construction related issues, such as health and safety, the environment, HIV and AIDS, woman in construction, productivity, quality management, and the performance of buildings and structures.

Professor John Smallwood
PhD (Construction Management)
Head, Department of Construction Management

Characteristics of a Construction Manager

The following personal characteristics and interests are important:

- ▶ Initiative and individuality
- ▶ Enjoy challenges and variety
- ▶ Enjoy indoor and outdoor work
- ▶ Be a group leader
- ▶ Enjoy working with people
- ▶ Can work in a team
- ▶ Honesty and integrity
- ▶ Interested in:
 - ▶ Business
 - ▶ Science and technology
 - ▶ Working with numbers
 - ▶ Legal principles
 - ▶ Human and organisation behaviour
 - ▶ Information technology
 - ▶ Communication



BSc Construction Studies

Admission requirements

- ▶ Minimum NSC requirements for degree entry must be met.
- ▶ Admission Point Score (APS) of 36.
- ▶ English, Afrikaans or isiXhosa (Home Language or 1st Additional Language) on at least level 3 (40 - 49%).
- ▶ NSC achievement rating of at least 4 (50 - 59%) for mathematics.
- ▶ Applicants with an APS between 26 - 35 may be referred to write the Access Assessment Test before a decision can be made on whether or not to admit the applicant to the course.

Duration of course

Full-time 3 years

Curriculum

- ▶ Construction Science and Technology: Materials & Methods, Environment & Services, Structures, Surveying, Physics, Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science;
- ▶ Construction Economics: Production Analysis, Statistics, Economics, Building Economics, Property Economics, and
- ▶ Construction Management: Organisation Behaviour, Accounting, Business Management, Project Management, Construction Management, Business & Building Law, Professional Practice, and a research project are also included.

Further Studies

In order to register as a Professional Construction Manager, BSc (Construction Studies) graduates must complete a BSc (Honours) (Construction Management). Thereafter they may consider a MSc (Construction Management) followed by a PhD (Construction Management). These higher degrees require registration and completion of a dissertation and thesis respectively.

