

## **Why Consider a Career in Masonry?**

Masonry can be a fulfilling and promising career for individuals with a desire to work with their hands. Masonry is a time-honored trade that involves constructing, repairing, and maintaining structures using bricks, concrete blocks, and natural or artificial stone. But how do you get started?

## **Getting the Right Education and Training**

To kick start a career in masonry, obtaining the necessary education and training is important. Many technical schools, vocational institutes, and community colleges offer specialized programs in masonry. These programs cover essential skills such as bricklaying, blocklaying, stonemasonry, and understanding blueprints. Additionally, apprenticeships provide hands-on training under the guidance of experienced masons, offering valuable real-world experience.

## **Gaining Practical Experience through Apprenticeships**

Apprenticeships are a cornerstone of masonry education. During an apprenticeship, you'll work alongside seasoned masons, learning the nuances of the trade. This hands-on experience is invaluable, as it allows you to develop skills in various techniques, understand safety procedures, and master the use of tools and equipment.

## **Mastering Skills and Techniques**

Becoming proficient in masonry involves honing a set of key skills and techniques. This includes precision in measuring and cutting materials, proficiency in mortar mixing, and the ability to read and interpret blueprints. Attention to detail, spatial awareness, and problem-solving skills are also crucial attributes for a successful mason.

## **Ensuring Safety and Compliance**

Safety is key in masonry. Understanding and sticking to safety regulations and best practices is vital. This includes knowledge of proper lifting techniques, handling hazardous materials, and utilizing personal protective equipment. Being aware of local building codes and regulations is equally vital to ensure compliance in your projects.

## **Building a Professional Portfolio**

As you gain experience, start building a collection of photos showcasing your completed projects. This will serve as an example of your skills and craftsmanship, providing potential employers or clients with evidence of what you can do.

## **Get Yourself Out There**

Joining industry associations, attending trade shows, and participating in workshops can help you connect with fellow professionals, potential employers, and clients. Building a professional network can open doors to new opportunities.

Masonry can be a rewarding career for those who want to create lasting structures. Getting the right education, gaining practical experience, and continuously improving your skills, you can make a successful path in this time-honored trade.

PBA's Endorsed Trade Program (ETP) supports training at dozens of Career and Technical Centers across the state. To learn more about the ETP and where to find an approved program near you, [CLICK HERE](#).

Learn about more career opportunities and how much you can earn [HERE](#).