

**KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**6301 Kirkwood Blvd., SW**  
**P.O. Box 2068**  
**Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406-2068**

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**TO CHECK OUT OUR CURRICULUM FOR MASONRY CONSTRUCTION  
VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT:  
[www.kirkwood.edu/industrialtech/program/index.htm](http://www.kirkwood.edu/industrialtech/program/index.htm)**

**The Masonry program is located at Hawkeye Downs, 4400 6th St. SW,  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa. If you would like a walk through tour of a particular area or  
the department call (319) 398-4983 to schedule a tour!**

## **Masonry**

The people who will experience the greatest success in construction trades will be those who have a good work ethic and strong technical skills -- skills such as those taught by Kirkwood's experienced masonry instructors. Kirkwood's Masonry program includes instruction in blueprint reading, mathematics, tools and equipment, building styles, and materials used in masonry construction.

The strength of the curriculum lies in the hands-on experience. Students begin the program with a two-week training period during which they gain necessary certifications and a basic knowledge of materials and tools used on the job. This initial training is followed by a six-week internship during which students work at the job site and serve as helpers to bricklayers. The applied, hands-on classroom training includes extensive laboratory sessions, followed by a field experience as a bricklayer for several weeks in the spring.

The Masonry curriculum is designed by an advisory committee that includes representatives from the masonry building trade (including the Masonry Institute of Iowa), the Iowa Department of Education and Kirkwood Community College.

## **Tool Requirements**

Students in the Masonry Construction program are required to purchase a tool set for use in lab activities and on-the-job training. Instructors provide students with a list of the minimum requirements. Students are offered the tools at cost, which is estimated to be around \$125.

## **Masonry Construction Career Opportunities**

With the average age of a journeyman mason in Iowa to be around 57. This number is a clear indication that the job market for skilled masons will continue to look strong over the next several years. Employment opportunities for graduates with a diploma in Masonry Construction exist with material supply firms, landscape firms, subcontractors, and commercial, residential, and industrial contractors and builders.

In 2001, 12 students graduated from the inaugural class of Masonry Construction. All 12 students were accepted into formal apprenticeship programs, resulting in a 100 percent job placement rate. The average starting wage for these students was \$13 per hour.

### **Frequently Asked Questions About Masonry Construction**

**Q. What skills or abilities are needed for this field?**

A. Manual dexterity, the ability to work with your hands, attention to detail and reliability are crucial elements of a mason's job. In addition, the ability to read blueprints is also helpful.

**Q. Does the course work in the program apply toward apprenticeship training?**

A. Yes. If accepted by the union bricklayers, successful completion of course work at Kirkwood counts as 55 to 65 percent of the apprenticeship training.

**Q. What is the average starting wage?**

A. The average wage for a bricklayer with one year of experience has ranged from \$12-\$13 per hour. Journeymen typically average more than \$25 per hour.

**Q. How long is the Masonry program?**

A. Completion of the program takes about nine months. Classes start in late August and end during the middle of May.

**Q. What else should I know about this career?**

A. A career in masonry requires tough, physical labor for several years. There is definite potential for advancement into management positions.

