

# BuildND.org

## Mason

(Brick, Block & Stone)

### Job Description

Brickmasons, Blockmasons and Stonemasons - Lay and bind building materials, such as brick, structural tile, concrete block, cinder block, glass block, terra-cotta block, and stone materials with mortar and other substances to construct or repair walls, partitions, arches, sewers, and other structures.

### Work Conditions

The work is physically demanding because masons lift heavy materials and often must stand, kneel, and bend for long periods. They usually work outdoors, so poor weather conditions may reduce work activity. Most masons work full time.

### How to Become a Mason

Although most brickmasons, blockmasons, and stonemasons (masons) learn through an apprenticeship, some learn their skills on the job. Others learn through 1- or 2-year mason programs at technical schools.

- **Education**

- A high school diploma or equivalent is required for all masons.
  - High school courses in English, mathematics, mechanical drawing, and shop are considered useful.
- Many technical schools offer 1-year programs in basic masonry.
  - These programs operate both independently and in conjunction with apprenticeship training.
  - The credits earned as part of an apprenticeship program usually count toward an associate's degree.
  - Some people take courses before being hired, and some take them later as part of on-the-job training.

- **Training**

- A 3- to 4-year apprenticeship is how most masons learn the trade.
  - For each year of the program, apprentices must complete at least 144 hours of related technical instruction and 2,000 hours of paid on-the-job training.
  - Apprentices learn construction basics such as blueprint reading; mathematics, including measurement, volume, and mixing proportions; building code requirements; and safety and first-aid practices.
  - In the coming years, the focus of apprenticeships is likely to change from time served to proven competence. This may result in apprenticeships of shorter duration.
  - After completing an apprenticeship program, masons are considered journey workers and are able to perform tasks on their own.



Associated General Contractors of North Dakota  
22 North Second Street, PO Box 1624, Bismarck, ND 58502  
(800) 472-2120, (701) 223-2770  
[www.agcnd.org](http://www.agcnd.org)



# BuildND.org

- Groups, including unions and contractor associations, sponsor apprenticeship programs.
  - The basic qualifications for entering an apprenticeship program are as follows:
    - Minimum age of 18
    - High school education or equivalent
    - Physically able to do the work
- Some contractors have their own training programs for masons. Although workers may enter apprenticeships directly, some masons start out as [construction helpers](#).
- **Important Qualities**
  - **Hand-eye coordination**  
Workers must be able to apply smooth, even layers of mortar, set bricks, and remove any excess before the mortar hardens.
  - **Math skills**  
Knowledge of math—including measurement, volume, and mixing proportions—is important in this trade.
  - **Physical stamina**  
Brickmasons must keep a steady pace while setting bricks all day. Although no individual brick is extremely heavy, the constant lifting can be tiring.
  - **Physical strength**  
Workers must be strong enough to lift blocks that sometimes weigh more than 40 pounds. They must also carry heavy tools, equipment, and other materials, such as bags of mortar and grout.
  - **Visualization**  
Stonemasons must be able to see how stones fit together to build attractive and stable structures.

## Wage Information:

The table below shows the estimated Employment Wage Statistics for individuals in North Dakota employed as Brickmasons and Blockmasons in 2013.

Rate Type	Entry level	Mean	Experienced
Annual Wage	\$38,920	\$57,600	\$66,950
Hourly Wage	\$18.71	\$27.69	\$32.19

For more information [click here](#).



Associated General Contractors of North Dakota  
22 North Second Street, PO Box 1624, Bismarck, ND 58502  
(800) 472-2120, (701) 223-2770  
[www.agcnd.org](http://www.agcnd.org)

