



Cabinetmaking/Millwork CIP Code 48.0703

Introduction – Program of Study

Many people think of the wood products industry as only paper and lumber. While those items dominate a large portion of the wood industry, an abundance of wood products continue to be specialized products which are useful in daily living and popular by choice, including everything from beautiful guitars, snowboards, paneling, kitchen cabinets, spindles on staircases, furniture, pool cues, the special cuts of wood needed to make a window frame, and the dinner table. All of these wood products are manufactured by millworkers and cabinetmakers.

There are a tremendous number of actions that one can perform with wood. Woodworkers are skilled when shaping and producing wood products. Cabinetmakers must understand wood, where it comes from, how it performs and what can be done with it by cutting, shaping, and assembling wooden articles. Millworkers are skilled people who are comfortable working with technically sophisticated equipment in a manufacturing operation. Employees who are good with wood are vitally important in any millwork operation.

The wood products industry is enormous and is going through massive changes. Woodworkers often evoke images of a craftsman who builds ornate furniture using hand tools, but this industry is in the midst of a technological revolution. Hand tools have been replaced by power tools and much of the work has been automated and is now being done on an assembly line. New computerized machines are eliminating the need for unskilled, manual labor. Jobs are changing focus because the wood products industry needs skilled workers who can program, operate and design high technology machines.

Manufacturers are using computerized machines to mold and shape wood. Using robotics, they can program a machine to carve an intricate pattern into a piece of wood; therefore, allowing a variety of beautiful work to be mass produced with the entry of a computer program and associated software. Individuals who use such computerized machines need to be able to read blueprints, drawings, diagrams, or interpret written or oral instructions for wood products and their specifications.

Production workers are the center of any millwork products operation. They are the ones who actually make the products and operate the machines. They move wood through the production line until it becomes a finished product ready for distribution. Many of these jobs involve using software and computer controlled equipment. Companies need employees who can program and troubleshoot these machines to keep them operating. Production workers are constantly adapting to new ways of working with wood. Machinery that produces wood

products is becoming technologically sophisticated and complex.

Technical institutes, colleges, and universities have educational programs specifically developed for the wood industry. These programs are providing relevant and practical education that is directly related to industry needs and skills as well as knowledge. A cabinetmaker or millworker is able to combine relevant technical information about the industry with practical, hands on learning opportunities to ensure the success of the woodworking industry.

Assumptions of this Program of Study

High quality programs should meet the following standards:

1. Promote positive working relationships.
2. Implement a curriculum that fosters all areas of skill development
3. Use appropriate and effective teaching approaches.
4. Provide ongoing assessments of student progress.
5. Employ and support qualified teaching staff.
6. Establish and maintain relationships and use resources of the community.
7. Provide a safe and healthy learning environment.
8. Implement strong program organization and supervision policies that result in high quality teaching and learning.
9. Integrate academic skills and aptitudes necessary for postsecondary education, gainful employment and a foundation of lifelong learning.

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48.0703 Cabinetmaking/Millwork

This is an instructional program that prepares individuals to apply technical knowledge and skills in the production of products such as window frames, moldings, trim and panels and such products as furniture, store fixtures, kitchen cabinets and office equipment. Instruction includes training in cutting, shaping and assembling parts using hand tools and woodworking machines, refinishing furniture and installing hardware (hinges, catches and drawer pulls). Instruction also includes planning layouts, blueprint reading, drafting and knowledge of practical uses and identification of various kinds of woods.

For more information, contact:

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