

# Skill Sets of Students in Comparison to their Preferred Route after College

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**CAL POLY**  
**Construction Management**  
 COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE  
 & ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

1. What is your year at Cal Poly?

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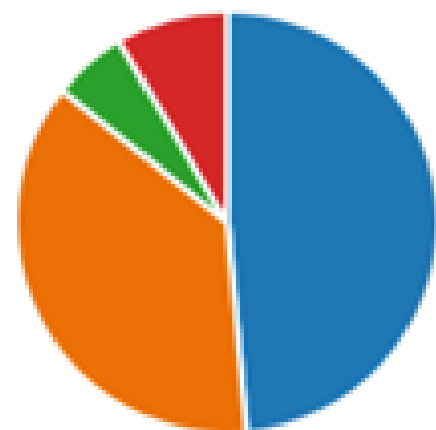
- 1st Year 3
- 2nd Year 7
- 3rd Year 8
- 4th Year or higher 17



2. What is your preferred route for full time work regardless of sector (i.e. commercial, heavy-civil, residential, etc.) ?

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- Project Manager (Office Route) 17
- Superintendent (Field Route) 13
- Preconstruction or BIM 2
- Other 3



Many of the superintendents and project managers today come out of higher education instead of coming up through the trades. This creates a large need for universities to produce both quality superintendents and project managers to run jobs efficiently and effectively in the future. This research paper focuses on the skillsets of construction management students at Cal Poly in relation to their anticipated career path, to see if students are choosing their path based on the skills, they have self-assessed or another factor. The hypothesis is that students are tending to not choose their route based on skills but instead choosing on some other outside factors. The survey to test this was created with eleven skills for the students to rate themselves on a Likert scale. All these skills were selected based on a literature review of previous surveys of which skills are most important in the industry for specific roles. The responses to the survey were then separated between their preferred route and averaged so that a quantitative analysis could be done. In this analysis we were able to see that contrary to the original hypothesis, students tend to choose their role based on skills, not other factors.

Key Words: Project Manager, Superintendent, Skills, Personality Traits, Construction

Skill set Surveyed:	Superintendent Average	Project Manager Average
People Skills:	4.23	4.00
Scheduling Skills	3.46	3.53
Management Skills	4.38	4.00
Negotiation Skills	3.5	3.17
Financial Skills	2.69	3.59
Sequencing of Work	3.77	3.7
Work Ethic	4.84	4.43
Ability to learn from others	4.92	<u>4.82</u>
Problem Solving	4.54	4.29
Planning Skills	4.00	4.41
Communication Skills	4.3	4.29

