



COLUMBIA SPS  
Construction Administration

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# 2023

## Construction Careers Outcomes Report

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Master of Science  
Construction Administration





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# Building Resiliency



This 2023 Construction Careers Outcomes Report showcases a snapshot of the Master of Science in Construction Administration graduates and how they are advancing knowledge with purpose. It also demonstrates how our Career Design Lab at the School of Professional Studies of Columbia University connects students to the resources and relationships they need to advance, adapt, and accelerate their careers—while they're here and long after they leave.

More than 94% of graduates had career outcomes, while 75% of those were either promoted or transitioned into a new industry after graduation.

Thanks to industry-leading faculty and a network of engaged alumni, the Master of Science in Construction Administration program prepared this class with the tools necessary to overcome obstacles and accomplish their professional goals.







# CDL/CNAD Events 2022–2023

**October 19, 2022**

## **Haydan Consultants, Inc. Information Session**

During this information session, participants learned about Haydan's history, current projects, and career opportunities. They got to hear about the personal experience of a Columbia SPS alumnus and current Haydan member. The event was geared towards Construction Administration students and those interested in transportation, power/energy, water and environment markets.

Haydan Consultants, Inc. offers a suite of hands-on professional services to the construction industry, leveraging the deep collective experience of its team members. Haydan strives to provide best-in-class service across the Transportation, Water, Facilities, Power/Energy and Environment sectors. Haydan's core services include program management, construction management and inspection, project controls, environmental consulting, compliance, and staff augmentation.

**October 27, 2022**

## **Constructing a Sustainable World: A SUMA/CNAD Employer Panel**

Students and alumni heard from professionals within sustainability and construction as they discussed how the construction industry is transforming to be more sustainable.

### **Keynote**

- Steve Cohen, Senior Vice Dean, Columbia SPS; Director, Environmental Policy & Sustainability Management

### **Moderator**

- Chris Hagen, Chief Procurement Officer, Eaglestone

### **Panelists**

- Michael Acquesta, Electrical Engineer, Goldman Copeland
- Dost Bardouille, Director Of Corporate Responsibility, Swinerton
- Patrick Cesare, Director Of Project Management, PJ Mechanical
- Paula Zimin, Director Of Sustainable Building Services, Steven Winter Associates

**February 15, 2023**

## **Linesight Employer Information Session**

Attendees heard from professionals at Linesight regarding opportunities in the construction field. Linesight provides clients with project, cost, and program management and scheduling services for construction projects. The firm has a wide array of clients in the commercial, technology, residential, life sciences, industrial, and retail sectors and is growing at a rapid pace. Linesight management is always looking to bring on new talent, whether that be a summer internship or hiring for full time positions.

**March 1, 2023**

## **JGM Information Session**

Participants heard from Azmat Ullah, CNAD '21 and his colleagues regarding opportunities in the construction industry.

JGM was founded in 1981, and today is one of the largest minority-owned firms in the field (a certified MBE firm). The firm has demonstrated the technical ability and the financial stability required to conceptualize, develop, and implement projects of a broad range of building typologies.

### **Panelists**

- Ryan Gales CEO
- Mark R. Colopy, President
- Efrain Sanchez, Project Architect
- Azmat Aulakh, NY/NJ Area Manager

**March 28, 2023**

## **Construction Administration Career and Networking Fair**

The Career Design Lab and Construction Administration program invited participants to a career and networking event with construction industry experts sharing their experiences and advice for breaking into the field.

### **Invited firms included:**

- JGM Inc
- Schimenti Construction Company
- JLS Cost Management Systems Inc.
- Gregor Industries
- Colliers Project Leaders
- CBRE
- Macro
- Mantis Direct, Inc.
- ORPM Alliance

**April 6, 2023**

## **Capstone Seminar with Raoul Ilaw, P.E.CCM, FCMAA Vice President and Senior Program Manager at STV and Neal Wright, P.E., PMP, Senior Vice President at STV**

The Construction Capstone, led by James Murphy welcomed guest lecturers Raoul Ilaw, P.E.CCM, FCMAA Vice President and Senior Program Manager at STV and Neal Wright, P.E., PMP, Senior Vice President at STV to discuss:

- Understanding the role of the importance of developing an actionable PMP for Federal Projects.
- The importance of Innovation in construction to bring new solutions to critical asset portfolio management and building for the future.
- Defining the scope and project understanding for case study project and how it relates to the development of the PMP.

- Understanding contracts, staffing requirements, roles and responsibilities and organizational structure necessary to deliver the project for the Federal Government.
- Challenges and lessons learned from the case study project and how the Executable Project Management Plan was used.

**April 13, 2023**

## **Capstone Seminar with Khaled Naja, PE, CCM**

The Construction Capstone welcomed guest lecturer, Khaled Naja, PE, CCM, C-suite leader and champion in the arenas of transformation, innovation, and delivery. The learning objectives highlighted during the lecture included:

- Understanding the role of the importance of developing an actionable PMP for complex projects in an occupied and operational facility;
- The importance of Innovation in construction to bring new solutions to critical asset portfolio management and building for the future;
- Defining the scope and project understanding for case study project and how it relates to the development of the PMP.
- Understanding contracts, staffing requirements, roles and responsibilities and organizational structure necessary to deliver the project;
- Challenges and lessons learned from the case study project and how the Executable Project Management Plan used;
- Discussion around the challenges of managing and managing and delivering a comprehensive sustainable, and resilient capital program.



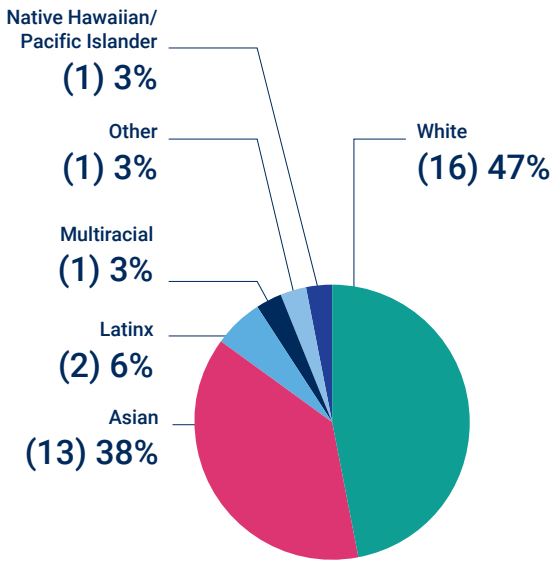
# Student Demographics<sup>1</sup>

39.5% 2023 International Graduates (15)

4 continents

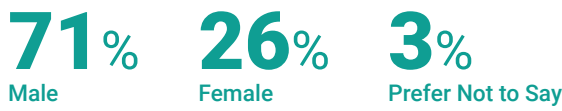


## Race/Ethnicity\*

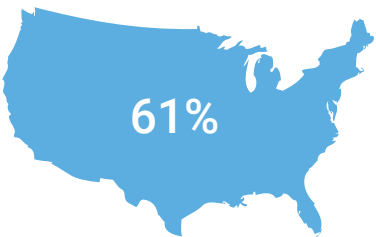


\*Records for nonresident aliens (2) and those of unknown ethnicity (2) were removed from the racial/ethnic categories

## Gender



## 2023 Domestic Graduates (23)



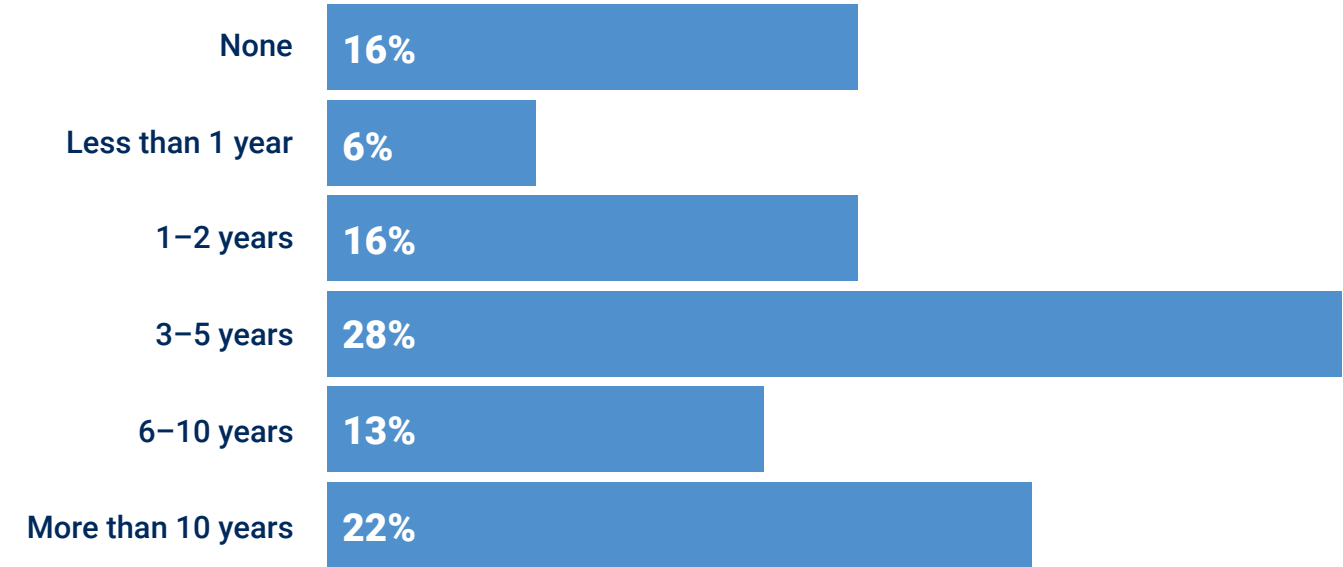
<sup>1</sup> 38 records included from the official graduate table in the Student Information System. All percentages stem from this total unless otherwise specified. Ethnicity is collected based on policy guidelines ([nces.ed.gov/ipeds/report-your-data/race-ethnicity-collecting-data-for-reporting-purposes](https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/report-your-data/race-ethnicity-collecting-data-for-reporting-purposes)). Some percentages may not round out to 100% due to decimals.

## 9 countries

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
|    | Canada         |
|    | Chile          |
|    | China Mainland |
|    | Cyprus         |
|  | India          |
|  | Indonesia      |
|  | Israel         |
|  | South Korea    |
|  | USA            |



Work Experience



38

Total 2023 Graduates

34

Average Age

23-63

Age Range

Where CNAD Graduates Are Working

Top Domestic State

New York  
100%

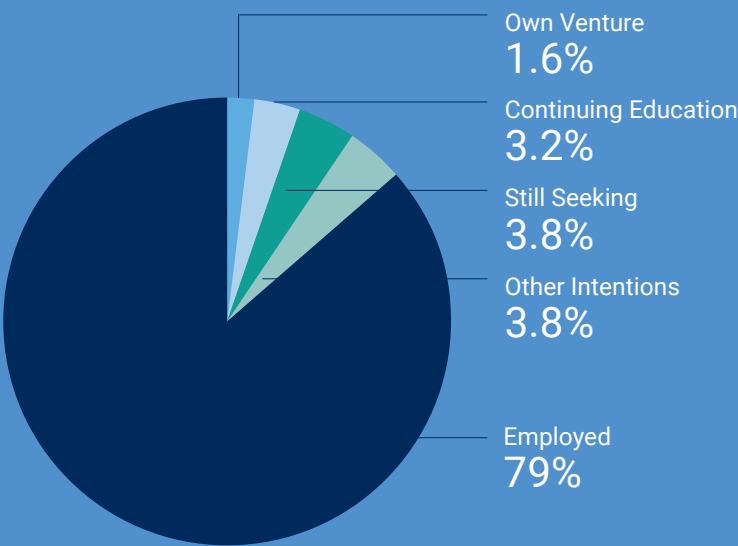


Percentages are out of the 21 graduates who are working in the U.S.



# Career Outcomes

## 94.5% Employment Outcomes



## 94.7% Knowledge Rate

1 Percentage of known outcomes in any of the employment categories, plus those who indicated Own Venture, Research, Volunteer Service, Active Military, or Continuing Education.

## Postgraduate Employment by Industry/Sector

3.23%	Finance
3.23%	Legal Services
3.23%	Consumer Goods
6.45%	Government
6.45%	Environmental Services
16.13%	Education
61.29%	Construction & Real Estate



## Organizations That Employ Class of 2023 CNAD Graduates

AB Capstone  
Builders

AECOM

Benchmark  
Builders

Berkadia

Boot Group, LLC

Canco Fasteners

CH.CO, Inc.

Columbia  
University

HNTB  
Corporation

JGM

Kohn Pedersen  
Fox Associates  
(KPF)

Lewis Brisbois

The LiRo Group

Metro Loft  
Management

Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Authority

NYC Department  
of Environmental  
Protection

Olympus Pines

Populous

RPASI A/V  
Consultants

Solar Energy  
Systems LLC

Starlite Building  
Services

Structural  
Solutions  
Consulting  
Services, LLC

SW1 Advisors

Turner &  
Townsend

Turner  
Construction  
Management

Vega  
Development

## Postgraduate Salaries

Average Salary

**\$136,670**

### Job Titles

- Assistant Lead. Construction Services Team
- Assistant Project Manager
- Associate Director, Facilities
- Associate Principal
- BIM Manager
- Commercial Estimator
- Construction Engineer Inspector
- Construction Loan Specialist
- Construction Project Manager
- Deputy Project Manager
- Director, Capital Projects
- Director of Construction Operations and Finance
- Environmental Engineer
- Manager, Electrical Systems
- Managing Partner
- MEP Engineering
- NY/NJ Area Manager
- Partner
- Procurement Analyst
- Project Engineer
- Project Manager
- Property Manager
- Senior Financial Analyst
- Senior Project Architect
- Senior Project Manager
- Technology & Business Consultant
- Vice President
- Vice President & Program Executive



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# 2023 Student Success Profiles

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**Juan Alejandro  
Hernandez**

Architecture Designer/  
BIM Manager  
POPULOUS

"Studying Construction Administration at Columbia University has been a transformative experience that has significantly advanced my career. The rigorous curriculum, combined with the University's emphasis on practical and theoretical knowledge, equipped me with an in-depth understanding of the construction industry. The program's comprehensive approach, covering everything from project management to advanced construction techniques, was instrumental in shaping my professional skills.

Columbia's exceptional faculty, composed of industry leaders and seasoned academics, provided invaluable insights and mentorship. Their guidance helped me develop a keen eye for detail and a strategic mindset, which have been crucial in my career progression. The diverse student body and collaborative learning environment fostered a network of peers and professionals that I continue to rely on today.

One of the most significant milestones in my career was joining Populous, one of the largest and most prestigious architecture firms in the world. The expertise and confidence I gained at Columbia played a pivotal role in securing this position. At Populous, I have been able to contribute to high-profile projects and grow as an architect, applying the knowledge and skills acquired during my studies. I am immensely grateful for the knowledge, experience, and connections I gained at Columbia, which continue to support my growth and success as an architect at Populous."



**Anthony Luckie**

Partner  
Lewis Brisbois

"I joined the program as an already established attorney at my law firm working mostly on cases involving injuries at the job site. My hope was that doing this program would expand my abilities to intelligently converse with my clients on topics such as scheduling, reviewing blueprints, and of course, more knowledge on the intricacies of their contracts. When I started the program I immediately saw vast improvement in my work and client interactions. So much so that I was promoted to Partner at my firm before I even graduated. Today, I am able to handle a wide swath of claims and lawsuits within the construction industry and it is largely due to the knowledge and contacts this program bestowed on me. My experience at Columbia has provided me skills and opportunities that I didn't think possible. It was the best professional decision I have made since graduating Law School."



**Arber Selimaj**

**Construction Loan Specialist**  
*Berkadia*

"As a recent graduate of the Construction Administration master's program at Columbia University, I am thrilled to share how this program has significantly impacted my career. The construction industry is increasingly valuing advanced education and interdisciplinary skills.

My current role as a Construction Loan Specialist at Berkadia is a testament to the value of this program. The rigorous curriculum provided me with a solid foundation in both construction management and business principles. Courses such as Project Management and Construction Finance were instrumental in bridging my prior experience in business with the technical demands of construction administration.

The program's emphasis on real-world applications and faculty expertise ensured that I was well-prepared to tackle industry challenges. The network and resources at Columbia University have been invaluable in achieving these milestones.

In summary, the Construction Administration master's program at Columbia University has been a pivotal factor in my professional development, seamlessly integrating my background in business with a deep understanding of construction practices. I highly recommended this program to anyone looking to elevate their career in the construction industry."



**Pallavi A. Tripathi**

**Project Analyst**  
*Turner & Townsend*

"Reflecting on my journey through the CNAD program at Columbia University fills me with immense gratitude and pride. As an international student, navigating the intricacies of the construction industry in a new environment was no small feat. However, the program proved to be a transformative experience, shaping my career trajectory in ways I could have never imagined.

One of the standout features of the program is undoubtedly the esteemed faculty. Their depth of knowledge, coupled with their unwavering dedication to student success, created an unparalleled learning environment. Their constant mentorship and guidance not only enriched my understanding of the different nuances but also instilled in me a sense of confidence to tackle real-world challenges.

Equally instrumental in my journey were my wonderful peers. Collaborating with fellow students from diverse backgrounds and cultures not only broadened my perspective but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and mutual support. Together, we navigated through multiple projects, shared insights, and celebrated each other's successes, creating lasting bonds that extend far beyond the classroom.

The program enabled me with the knowledge, skills, and networks necessary to thrive in the competitive world of construction. Today, I stand as a testament to the program's impact, and with the tools it has provided, I am eager to continue striving to create a positive impact in the construction industry and beyond."



# A Father and Son Graduate Together from the Construction Administration Program

Last year, more than 2,000 master's students graduated from Columbia's School of Professional Studies. Two of those graduates who walked in May, James and Anthony Luckie, happened to be father and son. James, who lives in Setauket, New York, and Anthony, who is now in Forest Hills, New York, both received their M.S. from the **Construction Administration** program.

In an interview, father and son discussed why they decided to join the program, what they hope to accomplish with their degrees, and how they welcomed a new addition to their family a week after commencement.

## What was it like to graduate together?

Anthony: I told my dad that morning that while it's an incredible achievement for both of us to graduate from an Ivy League school, for me, that day was a culmination of a father raising his son. Standing there with him onstage, both our arms draped over **Professor and Program Director John Parkinson**, who taught the first class we took at Columbia, I made sure I took time to feel grateful.

James: How many people can say, "My son was my classmate," or "My father was my classmate" (although I used to always joke that I was his older brother)? We already had a very strong bond, but going through this program and attaining our master's together made it even stronger.

## What inspired you to get a master's at Columbia SPS in the Construction Administration program?

Anthony: I had zero interest in getting a master's. I had my law degree, and

after I passed the bar, I thought I'd never go to school again. But my dad kept bringing it up. I didn't think I'd even get in. But I gave it a shot. The opportunity to have my name placed on the same alumni list as some of the most important figures in American history seemed like a great opportunity. Getting in was a really big thrill for my life.

James: With the start of the pandemic, I knew the labor markets were going to be in a transitional phase. I also knew that at 59 years old, my experience and skills needed to be upgraded to adequately prepare me for the future. I felt the best way to do this was to attain a master's in Construction Management. Also, my son's legal practice focused on construction litigation, so it seemed like it was a program that would benefit both of us.

## What do you hope to do with your degree?

Anthony: I have a lot of goals for my degree. Currently I'm an attorney at Lewis Brisbois, and I mostly handle construction-accident lawsuits, but I'd like to do a lot more. With this degree, I now know I can litigate contractual disputes, mechanic's liens, and property-damage cases. I mean, how many lawyers actually know how to use the software that companies use to make scheduling? How many know how to read a blueprint? The answer is not many. But now I do.

James: I'm looking forward to possibly teaching within the program and pursuing electrical sustainability consulting opportunities.

## What were your thoughts about the program?

Anthony: The program was awesome. I've made so many lifelong connections, from students to faculty

to administration. They're incredible people, all of them.

One of the coolest things for me, someone who's been in or around New York City pretty much his whole life, is that I have classmates and friends who are not just from other parts of America, but they're from Chile, Pakistan, Jerusalem, and so many other places. To get the unique perspective of people that aren't from where you're from, I think, only makes someone better.

## Any last thoughts?

Anthony: My life is a blessing. My own son was born one week after graduation. I don't take for granted how lucky I am to have my dad. I can only hope that my son knows how loved he is as I know I am loved by my parents.

James: The best part of the day was standing arm in arm with Professor Parkinson and knowing both my son and I persevered together to get our degrees and to become part of the Columbia Alumni community.









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