Can Women be Drafters? **YES!**

Drafters make detailed drawings of objects that will be manufactured or built.

Drafters prepare technical drawings. Production and construction workers follow these drawings to build everything from radios to office buildings. These drawings show the technical details of the products and structures from all sides. They also include exact dimensions, specific materials to be used, and procedures to be followed.

Drafters meet with engineers, architects, builders and clients who need the technical drawings. From these meetings, drafters learn details about the project or item that will be built. Drafters may receive calculations and rough drawings from clients at these meetings. They often visit job sites to collect data and take measurements. Drafters take the rough information and turn it into drawings meant for construction/production.

In the past, drafters sat at drawing boards. They used compasses, dividers, protractors, triangles, and other drafting devices to prepare drawings. Now, most drafters use computer-aided drafting (CAD) systems. Because the drawings are stored electronically, these systems make it easy to prepare many variations of a design.

Regardless of Gender Drafters need to:

- Visit job sites and confer with engineers, surveyors, and architects to learn more about the item or structure to be drawn.
- Use drafting tools and computer-aided drafting (CAD) systems to prepare technical drawings of items that include structural, electrical, and mechanical components.
- Specify in drawings which materials are to be used. Determine a course of action and instructions, based on design.
- Refer to building codes, technical handbooks, and tables for information. Determine their effect on designs.
- Provide variations of designs for different construction circumstances.
- Build landscape, architectural and display models. Include both interiors and exteriors.
- Work with architects and engineers to prepare project estimates, contracts, and reports.
- Work with architects and engineers to make sure builders follow designs. Recommend corrections.
- May coordinate the work and activities of other drafters and designers.

Idaho Wages

**Hourly Range** $11.30 to $23.54  
**Median Wage** $17.20

Preparation

To work as an drafter, you must:

- have a high school diploma or GED;
- complete training beyond high school;
- have an eye for color and detail; and
- be able to work accurately and neatly.

Technical and Associate of Applied Science degrees are offered at the College of Southern Idaho.

Idaho Employment

841 jobs—Large occupation  
22.8%—annual growth  
43—annual jobs open

Nationally, women make up 21.8% of the labor force. Source: US Dept. of Labor (2006)

Job Outlook

The occupation is growing rapidly & pay is rising. Jobs become available as current drafters retire or transfer to other occupations. Growth will be slightly faster for mechanical drafters.

Idaho information copyright © 2007 Idaho Career Information System.