

# 6 COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT CIVIL ENGINEERING



## 1 | WHAT DOES A CIVIL ENGINEER DO?



From concept to construction, civil engineers are the creative problem-solvers who lead design and project planning. They turn ideas into the roads, bridges, buildings, and infrastructure that shape how we live and learn. Involved from early planning through final construction, civil engineers manage and lead projects every step of the way.

## 3 | WHY DO OUR COMMUNITIES RELY ON CIVIL ENGINEERS?

Civil engineers put people first—understanding community needs and designing infrastructure that keeps society moving. They are creative, adaptable problem-solvers who aren't afraid to think outside the box when leading projects or developing new solutions. At the heart of their work is a commitment to creating safe, resilient spaces that support and serve the communities they belong to.

## 2 | AVERAGE SALARY

In Pennsylvania, the average salary a civil engineer earns ranges from **\$75,000- \$80,000 per year\***, offering a stable, well-paying career for individuals who enjoy problem-solving, teamwork, and creating real-world solutions that improve how people live, work, and travel.



Source: Salary.com (February 2026)

## 4 | DO YOU NEED A DEGREE?

Yes, a 4-year degree is required in order to become a Civil Engineer. However, there are many affiliated roles within the civil engineering industry that only require a 2-year degree or professional certificate. ACEC/PA's Engineering4U website is a great next step for students interested in engineering careers.



## 5 | WHAT IS ENGINEERING4U?



Engineering4u.org is ACEC/PA's go-to resource for students, teachers, and counselors seeking to learn more about Pennsylvania's engineering industry and the civil engineering profession. Scan the QR code below for a list of school resources, project resources, and more!

## 6 | WHO CAN I REACH OUT TO FOR GUIDANCE AND/OR RESOURCES?

ACEC/PA is happy to work alongside teachers and school counselors to help inspire future engineers! For assistance, please contact Sarah Babski at [sbabski@acecpa.org](mailto:sbabski@acecpa.org).

