

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) and the Arkansas Construction Education Foundation (ACEF) spent a good deal of time investigating exactly what the management of commercial construction firms were looking for in the talent of their front-line supervisors. The following skill areas stood out in the results of this investigation:

“Know How to Layout a Safe and Efficient Jobsite”- Become familiar with using benchmarks, blueprints, grades and elevations to do the front-end planning that will result in a safe and efficient construction project.

“Be Proactive and Schedule Ahead”- Through advanced planning, using milestones and thinking of time as money, you can use simple processes to prevent wasted time and bring the job in ahead of schedule.

“Use Effective Communication Skills”- Learn to use letters, e-mail and verbal communication in a way that will motivate your crew, build a team attitude, manage crisis situations and present your company in the best possible light.

“Know the Basics of Green Construction”- Have the knowledge to be able to implement the practices required of your workers and other contractors on the increasing number of Green Construction projects.

Now ACEF and UALR’s Construction Management Department are combining efforts to develop these supervisor skills in a two-part education series- “The Sustainable Construction Supervisor” and “Fundamentals of Crew Leadership”. Each of these courses is based on curriculum accredited by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) and the supervisors will earn national certification for course completion.



Sustainable Construction Supervisor

Who Should Complete This Course?

Having a shot at winning and performing work on today’s Green Construction Projects requires that general and subcontractors have lead people who understand what is required. Your jobsite supervisors will be able to do the following after completing this course:

- Describe the common problems during construction that negatively impact sustainability factors for the project.
- Be able to propose ways to improve sustainability of the project during the construction phase.
- Can develop different ways to achieve sustainability objectives when desired products or technologies are not available.
- Can verify that products, technologies and project plans have required sustainability components and are being properly implemented.
- Will know how accurate tracking and verification of project documentation are critical to the project’s success in LEED certification.

Instructor: Mr. James Carr, Professor, UALR Construction Management Department. Mr. Carr has a Masters Degree in Construction Science and was a subject matter expert and an instructor of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) course “Green Building for the Building Professional”.



Fundamentals of Crew Leadership

Who Should Complete This Course?

Leadership and supervision on the jobsite is how a construction company makes or loses money. Whether he is a “good hand” just beginning in supervision or an experienced supervisor wanting to strengthen his fundamentals, students completing this course will be able to:

- Understand and incorporate leadership skills into work habits, including: communications, motivation, team building, problem solving and decision-making.
- Demonstrate an awareness of safety issues, including the cost of accidents and safety regulations.
- Can identify a crew leader’s safety responsibilities.
- Will understand the planning process, scheduling and cost and resource control.

Instructor: Mr. Mike Tramel, Chairman, UALR Construction Management Department. Mr. Tramel has taught for 17 years at the university level in construction science, technology and management. He has 15 years of field experience as a general foreman and superintendent.