CIM lab manager Jason Crabtree teaches students field testing skills that can help them get their first concrete industry certification.

CIM students hear from a Dayton Superior employee while on a plant tour in Ohio.

“I’m so happy with my internship experience and it is so gratifying to know that I’m on the right track to finally having the career of my dreams.”

—Natalie Martin (’16), Columbia State Community College transfer student, Preferred Materials intern
Concrete Industry Management became a four-year degree at Middle Tennessee State University in 1996. The concrete industry was in need of people with enhanced technical, communication, and management skills to meet growing demands. The curriculum was developed with input from concrete professionals and is regularly adjusted to meet the needs of employers or expose students to different sectors of the industry that might have growth.

Undergraduate
Concrete Industry Management offers a Bachelor of Science with 12 core classes in the major that emphasize problem solving and use case studies as real-world examples. The curriculum integrates two American Concrete Institute (ACI) industry certifications. Students then choose between two concentrations: Production, Sales, and Service or Concrete Contracting for an additional seven classes. All students are required to earn a Business Administration minor to include fundamentals in accounting, finance, management, and marketing.

Graduate
CIM has also developed an executive-style M.B.A. that can be obtained online in 18 months for industry professionals with three years of experience and any bachelor’s degree.

“CIM gave me the foundation on which I built a career I truly love.”
—Matt Smuck ('11), inspector/technician, Advance Testing Company, Campbell Hall, New York

“AS a proud CIM alum and executive in the industry, I have no doubt that my education and access to the CIM network have been crucial to the development and growth of my career.”
—Paul Ozinga ('06), executive vice president, Ozinga Ready Mix Concrete, Chicago

Students are treated as part of the industry beginning with their first CIM class. They learn soft skills and are required to attend at least one industry event each semester. Networking opportunities, guest lectures, and recruiting events in the department give ample opportunity for students to explore the variety of potential careers in concrete and construction. With alumni and industry partners across the nation, students in CIM have a vast network to connect with potential career opportunities.

The department is often notified about potential jobs, such as sellers of concrete-related products; quality assurance staff; dispatchers; estimators; field engineers; plant managers, project managers; or superintendent trainees. We hold several recruiting events each semester, ranging from company-sponsored dinners to networking events and interviews. On average, over 40 companies recruit on campus each year, and well over 200 job postings are emailed to the department.

Students are offered hands-on experience through class projects, a 400-hour internship, plant tours, employer demonstrations, student-organization competitions, and individual projects. Students are able to travel, thanks to industry donations, to concrete conferences to learn about different aspects of the industry, represent the department, and network with potential employers.

The concrete industry has committed to assisting students financially by funding over 25 scholarships just for CIM majors. Each year, over $45,000 in scholarships is awarded. See a list of these opportunities or find an application (due April 1) on the CIM website.

www.mtsucim.com