AutoCAD 2D & 3D for Civil Infrastructure Projects Training Course



16 - 20 Nov 2026

Cape town

4600 € (Per Person)

Ref: #CAD2629_271223

Course Introduction / Overview:

This course provides a comprehensive, project-based exploration of AutoCAD for civil infrastructure applications, covering both 2D drafting and 3D modeling workflows. Moving beyond generic software commands, this program immerses participants in the practical challenges of designing and documenting projects such as roads, site developments, and utility networks. The curriculum is designed to build a robust skill set, starting from foundational 2D technical drawings and progressing to the creation of complex 3D surface models and infrastructure components. We will explore principles of digital representation in engineering, echoing the detailed approach advocated by authors like Paul F. Aubin in his works on architectural and engineering visualization, which emphasize clarity and precision in digital documentation. Participants will learn to manage complex drawings, integrate survey data, and produce professional-grade construction documents. At BIG BEN Training Center, our focus is on empowering engineers and designers to leverage AutoCAD's full potential, transforming complex site data into actionable, intelligent models for successful project execution from conception to completion. This training ensures you can confidently tackle real-world civil engineering design and drafting tasks.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Civil Engineers.
- CAD Technicians and Drafters.
- Structural Engineers.
- Urban and Regional Planners.
- Land Surveyors and Geomatics Professionals.
- Infrastructure Project Managers.
- Public Works Officials.
- Construction Professionals.
- Engineering Students and Graduates.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Engineering Consulting Firms.
- Construction and Contracting Companies.
- Real Estate and Land Development.
- Transportation and Logistics.
- Oil and Gas.
- Utilities and Telecommunications.
- Governmental bodies including municipalities and public works authorities.
- Environmental and Geotechnical Engineering Services.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Engineering and Design Department.
- Planning and Development Department.
- Infrastructure and Asset Management.
- Drafting and CADD Department.
- Projects Department.
- Surveying Department.
- Construction Management.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Create and manage complex 2D site plans and layouts with precision.
- Apply advanced drafting techniques for civil engineering documentation.
- Effectively manage external references, layers, and CAD standards.
- Translate 2D drawings and survey data into accurate 3D surface models.
- Model 3D civil infrastructure elements such as road corridors and pipe networks.
- Generate cross-sections and longitudinal profiles from 3D models.
- Prepare detailed construction drawings and documentation for project delivery.
- Visualize and render 3D models for presentations and stakeholder reviews.
- Integrate GIS and point cloud data into AutoCAD projects.
- Perform basic quantity takeoffs and earthwork calculations.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be highly interactive, practical, and engaging, ensuring that participants gain tangible skills they can apply immediately. We employ a blended learning approach that combines expert-led instruction with extensive hands-on exercises using real-world civil infrastructure project scenarios. Each module is built around a practical case study, such as a site development plan or a road alignment project, allowing participants to work through the entire design and documentation lifecycle. The sessions encourage active participation through group discussions, problem-solving activities, and peer-to-peer reviews. Our instructors facilitate a collaborative environment where participants can share experiences and learn from one another. Direct feedback is a cornerstone of our approach, with continuous guidance provided during practical sessions to address individual challenges and reinforce learning. This immersive, application-focused methodology ensures a deep understanding of not just the software's functions, but also their strategic application in professional civil engineering practice.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One Foundations of AutoCAD for Civil Engineering

- Setting up the AutoCAD environment for civil projects.
- Mastering essential drawing and modification commands.
- Working with coordinate systems and units for georeferenced data.
- Implementing effective layer management and CAD standards.
- Creating and using annotations, dimensions, and text styles.
- Understanding and applying scaling to civil drawings.
- Preparing drawings for plotting and digital submission.

Unit Two Advanced 2D Drafting and Data Management

- Creating and managing dynamic blocks for civil components.
- Utilizing external references (Xrefs) for project collaboration.
- Working with tables and extracting data for schedules.
- Importing and managing land surveying point data.
- Developing site layout plans and grading plans.
- Drafting property lines and legal descriptions.
- Techniques for efficient drawing cleanup and optimization.

Unit Three Introduction to 3D Modeling and Surfaces

- Navigating the 3D modeling workspace in AutoCAD.
- Creating and manipulating basic 3D solid and mesh objects.
- Understanding User Coordinate Systems (UCS) in 3D space.
- Generating 3D digital terrain models (DTM) from contours and points.
- Editing and refining 3D surfaces for accuracy.
- Analyzing surfaces for slope, elevation, and drainage.
- Draping 2D linework onto 3D surfaces.

Unit Four 3D Modeling of Civil Infrastructure Elements

- Modeling road corridors with alignments and profiles.
- Creating simple 3D models of bridges and culverts.
- Designing basic pipe networks and utility layouts in 3D.
- Performing 3D solid modeling operations like union and subtract.
- Integrating different 3D components into a master site model.
- Using point cloud data for as-built modeling.
- Conducting visual clash detection between infrastructure elements.

Unit Five Visualization, Documentation, and Project Delivery

- Creating detailed cross-sections and longitudinal profiles from 3D models.
- Generating 2D construction drawings from 3D views.
- Setting up viewports, layouts, and sheet sets for plotting.
- Applying materials and lighting for realistic visualizations.
- Rendering 3D models for project presentations.
- Performing basic earthwork volume calculations between surfaces.
- Best practices for archiving and delivering project files.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

Beyond technical proficiency, how can the principles of 3D modeling in AutoCAD fundamentally alter the collaborative decision-making process in the early stages of a civil infrastructure project?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by focusing exclusively on the application of AutoCAD within the civil infrastructure context, moving beyond the generic "one-size-fits-all" training approach. While other courses may teach software commands in isolation, our curriculum is structured around a project-based workflow that mirrors real-world engineering challenges. Participants do not just learn how to draw a line or create a surface; they learn how to develop a site plan, model a terrain from survey data, and generate construction-ready documents for a road project. This practical, A-to-Z project lifecycle approach ensures that the skills learned are immediately applicable and relevant. Furthermore, the course places significant emphasis on the integration of 2D drafting and 3D modeling, a critical skill in the modern engineering firm. We teach participants how to leverage their 2D expertise to build intelligent 3D models, and how to extract accurate 2D documentation from those models, fostering a holistic understanding of the digital design process. The insights provided are not just about software functionality but about strategic application for improved accuracy, efficiency, and project communication.