

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS SPECIALIST

What's a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist?

GIS specialists are mapmakers. Working side by side with other people in earth sciences, they create maps that depict a variety of features on the earth. They accumulate data from various sources (other maps, aerial and satellite photographs, sketches from field notes, etc.). They then process the data into digital format and prepare final maps.

Working Conditions

GIS specialists generally work office hours Monday to Friday. The work is done in an office environment at a computer workstation. The physical demands of the work are light, however, because of the detailed nature of the work, good eyesight is generally required. One must be physically capable of performing the duties assigned.

Training Required

Courses at the university and college levels on computer mapping and/or GIS. A number of colleges and universities outside Manitoba also have specific GIS courses. High school students should include drafting, geology and geography in their areas of study.



GIS Specialist Q & A

What kinds of employers hire GIS specialists?

- Governments (Federal, Provincial, Civic)
- Private Mapping Agencies
- Educational Institutions
- Petroleum Companies
- Mining Companies
- Consultants

What is the salary range for GIS specialists?

Provincial government salaries range from \$36,000 to \$70,000. Private sector salaries range from \$40,000 to \$90,000.

Where can I get more information on becoming a GIS specialist?

For information on institutions offering academic courses in GIS, visit your local library's reference department for institutions' calendars or contact:

- Department of Geological Sciences, University of Manitoba, (204) 474-9371 Web site: www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/science/geological_sciences
- Department of Geography, University of Winnipeg, (204) 786-9278 Web site: geograph.uwinnipeg.ca
- Red River College, Civil/CAD Technology Department, (204) 632-3017, Fax (204) 633-6075 Web site: www.rrc.mb.ca
- Manitoba Industry, Economic Development and Mines, (204) 945-6569 or 1-800-223-5215 Web site: www.gov.mb.ca/iedm/mrd