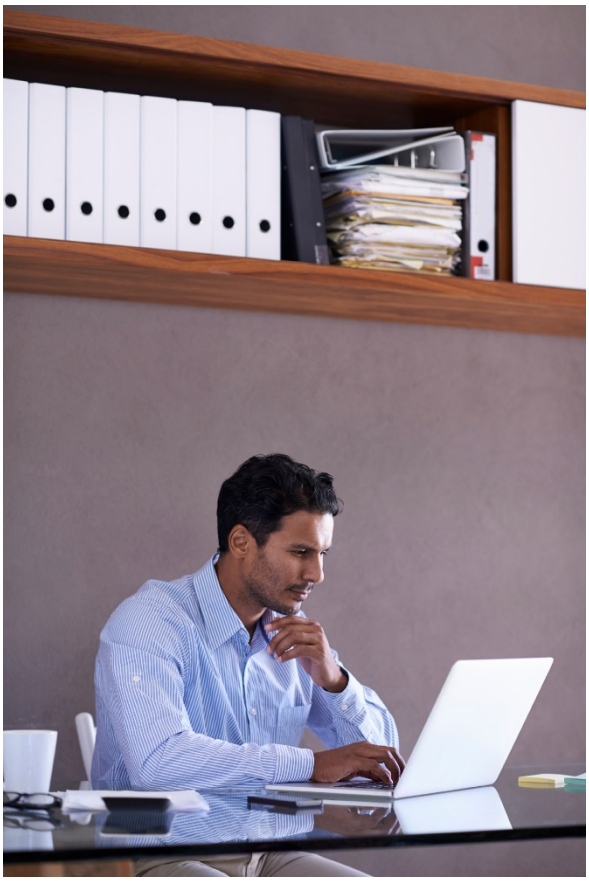
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS MAPPING TECHNICIAN



Job Description: A GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping technician uses computer and satellite data to assist with surveying and mapping duties. These duties are essential to a variety of activities that include mining, oil and gas exploration, wind turbine siting, and other energy related work. This occupation generally works under the direction of an engineer, surveyor, or cartographer (map-maker) to obtain data used for construction, mapmaking, boundary location, and other purposes. A person in this field may calculate mapmaking information and create maps from data obtained from surveying notes, aerial photography, satellite data, and other maps. He or she may also be called on to verify the accuracy and completeness of created maps.

Needed Skills & Education: A person in this line of work typically needs to be comfortable working with computers and other technology, and should have a background in mathematics, engineering and technology, and geography. The job requires a high level of accuracy and attention to detail. Another important skill is the ability to draw diagrams, charts, and maps. The level of education for this position is typically one or two years of community or technical college after high school. Applicable programs include surveying technology/surveying and Geographic Information Science and Cartography. Many firms provide on-the-job training and assist with certification training.

Wages: In North Dakota, the average annual wage for this position is $41,520, which is slightly below the national average of $42,680. Hourly wages range from a beginning rate of $12.43/hr to a high of $30.97/hr for experienced technicians.

Other Information: The outlook for this type of job in North Dakota is increasing at an annual growth rate of 9%. While the number of job openings in North Dakota and nationally is relatively small, there is an increasing demand for trained technicians. These positions are often associated with architectural and engineering firms, federal government agencies, coal mining companies, electric power generation, transmission and distribution companies, and even colleges and universities.

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