

Cartographic Technician



Alternate title	Cartographic Drafter; Drafter (Cartographic); Technician (Cartographic)
Description	Cartographic technicians assist cartographers with the analysis of field survey and land management data, aerial photographs, satellite imagery, and other geographic information sources to prepare maps, plans, charts, diagrams, computer based three dimensional models, and spatial information databases.
Typical duties	compile data and prepare maps using manual and digital methods such as web based electronic mapping, desktop publishing and multimedia software.. prepare, edit and revise plans, maps, charts, drawings and digital data using a variety of specialised software programs, such as Geographic information systems (GIS) and computer aided design (CAD); prepare material for hardcopy and digital reproduction and publication.
Personal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ graphic skills, with an interest in maps, drawing and design➤ aptitude for working with computers;➤ able to work neatly, accurately and attention to detail;➤ normal colour vision.
Qualification	The names of qualifications vary from institution to institution. Some examples are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Diploma in Spatial Information Services➤ Advanced Diploma of Spatial Information Services➤ Bachelor of Applied Science - Cartography
Entry pathway	To become a Cartographic Technician usually requires a diploma or advanced diploma in geographic or spatial information systems. Entry to a diploma course usually requires Year 12. Entry to an advanced diploma course usually requires your HSC/VCE or equivalent with English, mathematical methods and/or general mathematics. As subjects can vary between institutions, you should contact your chosen institution for full details.



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Job prospects Opportunities exist in the public and private sectors. Employers are mapping and geographic information agencies, mineral exploration, mining, planning and development companies, and city, town and shire councils. Cartographic technicians usually work as part of a team with other professionals and associates.

Some cartographic technicians upgrade their qualifications by completing a degree to become cartographers. There is an increasing trend for cartographic technicians to be self-employed contractors.

The vacancy level for Building, Architectural and Surveying Associates is average. Vacancies arising from job changing (Building, Architectural and Surveying Associates changing employers) are expected to provide 46 per cent of vacancies, compared with 48 per cent from job openings (Building, Architectural and Surveying Associates leaving the occupation) and 6 per cent from new jobs.

Specialisation Cartographic technicians may specialise in topographic maps which display natural features and relief of land; cadastral maps which show boundaries of owned land and properties; or thematic maps relating to geographic features.

Related Jobs

- Architectural Drafter
- Cartographer
- Science Field Officer
- Surveying Technician

Further information

- Spatial Sciences Institute (Head Office) [www.spatialsciences.org.au/]
- Geoscience Australia [ga.gov.au]
- Australian Spatial Information Business Association (National Office) [www.asiba.com.au/]
- Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia [www.mappingsciences.org.au/]