

Wondering how you could prepare for a **Career in LAND SURVEYING?**

In general, people who like surveying also like math—primarily geometry and trigonometry. The field attracts people with geology, forestry, history, engineering, computer science, and astronomy backgrounds, too. High school students interested in surveying should take courses in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, drafting, computer aided drafting (CAD), geography and computer science.

Surveyors get started in their career through many paths. It could be through a summer job, through a class about surveying, or from a family member who knows or who is a surveyor. Many surveyors suggest spending a summer working on a survey crew and asking questions. You don't have to have a degree or experience to help on a crew as a summer job. It can provide a chance to see what surveying is all about.

To learn more about a career in land surveying or becoming licensed in the State of California, visit our website at www.surveypath.org



*Choose Your Path
Make Your Mark*

Your Career as a Land Surveyor

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What is Land Surveying?

Land Surveying is crucial to responsible land development. Land Surveyors work with engineers, architects and builders to produce precise descriptions (surveys and maps) of surface features of the Earth. Land Surveyors perform a variety of vital tasks such as boundary surveys, topographic mapping and construction staking.

Many people think that surveyors only conduct fieldwork. Surveyors can choose from many specialties and get involved at many stages of a project. Sometimes a surveyor may work in the field and then deliver the data to a surveyor who works in the office. The office-based surveyor analyzes the data, creates maps and other documents.



Surveyors have shaped our History

- Three of the four presidents on Mount Rushmore started as surveyors, specifically, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln.
- Surveying tools and basic mathematical principles helped ancient Egyptians set the corners of the Great Pyramid.
- President Thomas Jefferson commissioned Lewis and Clark to explore and survey the territories from Jefferson's great real estate deal, the Louisiana Purchase. Their extensive reports, maps, and collected data provided critical information that encouraged westward settlement.
- Surveyors made sure the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific railroads met in Promontory Point, Utah, to form the first transcontinental railroad.
- Surveyors helped measure the distance from the earth to the moon. The first men to land on the moon placed a grouping of reflector prisms—measuring tools used by surveyors. The distance measured was accurate within just a couple of feet.
- When the Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated on February 1, 2003, debris scattered over hundreds of miles across 40 counties. Using high-precision GPS equipment, surveyors helped to mark the location of debris so that scientists could reconstruct the accident.



Outlook on the Profession

Land surveying is a career field in high demand throughout industry, government and the private sector. As a land surveyor you will provide services for planned communities, schools, shopping centers, highway projects and more.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects job opportunities in the surveying field to grow steadily through 2014, and the areas of urban planning, architecture, construction, and disaster and emergency planning will be particularly strong.

As a Land Surveyor you will benefit from:

- Professional status and recognition.
- A challenging and well-paying career.
- Working with cutting edge technology.
- Applying your technical skills in the outdoors and in an office environment.



Today's Technology

Land surveyors need to be current with emerging technologies such as GPS (Global Positioning System), 3D Laser scanning and digital photography. GPS is used for precise positioning of points anywhere on the earth that are used in a wide variety of mapping procedures. In general, the main function of a land surveyor is measuring and mapping the earth's surface through the use of current technologies and softwares.

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