

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS ADVANCED DIPLOMA

(One Year (8 months) Post-Graduate Program)

Please read and think about the following information below carefully to decide whether this program is a good fit for you. This information may change and is simply intended to offer you a helpful perspective on what you will experience in this program.

Orientation:	Final week of August (Required for all students)
Program Dates:	First week of September through first week of May
Scheduled Breaks:	Last week of December and first week of January (two weeks); first week of March (one week). Check your registration for exact dates.
Post-Graduation Work Permit length:	Up to 8 months.
Schedule:	Monday to Friday as early as 8:00 a.m. and as late as 6:00 p.m.
Location:	1430 Victoria Avenue East, Brandon, MB. See campus information here

What You'll Study:

Apply current GIS technologies and sophisticated computer software for real-world problems. You will use geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing and global positioning systems (GPS), and drone technology. Learn to analyze data, find and incorporate related information, and write reports and recommendations.

See course descriptions [here](#). Click on the "Courses and Costs" tab.

See PDF document on [this page](#).

How You'll "Learn By Doing":

Apply your learning and skills in classrooms, specialized computer labs and the outdoors.

You will need to be **very** comfortable with the Windows operating system, word processing and spreadsheet software, and capable of learning to use **new** software programs and other technology, quickly and correctly. If you have doubts, try Quizzes here: <https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/>. If you have difficulty with these quizzes, GIS may not be a good choice for you.

For some course activities, you'll be outside "in the field". You'll do laboratory exercises and guided agricultural and environmental site tours.

See video here from a business (not the college), describing GIS: <https://youtu.be/-ZFmAAHBfOU>

What You'll Need To Do to Graduate:

- Attend all classes, activities and field trips; arrive on time every day.
- Purchase all required books and supplies, including computer equipment, and safety clothing and equipment. See [here](#) about **required** computer equipment and [here](#) (under the Tools & Supplies tab) for required supplies and books. These costs are **not** included with tuition. You will need to have enough money to buy these **early** in the program and you will not be successful without them.

- Work co-operatively in teams and behave respectfully to all students, staff and partners.
English only.
- Manage **physical demands** like walking a long distance, often on rough/uneven land, or lifting equipment into a vehicle.
- To graduate, you must pass all courses **and** have a grade point average (GPA) of C (60%). Passing many courses with only a D (50%) can make your GPA too low to graduate. Re-testing is generally not an option. If you fail a course, it may not be available again until the following year.
- All English skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking) are important. Evaluation will include tests, group projects, presentations, public events and research papers.
- **Do your own work.** Cheating, not referencing sources of your ideas, or using other people's work could result in failing grades/suspension. See Policy A25 from this Academic Policies [link](#).

How College Can Help You

- Trained instructors will share their knowledge and experience from the industry, and will give you frequent and specific feedback on your progress.
- Learning Commons staff available to assist with study skills, like test-taking and writing papers.
- Student advising staff can offer support for personal issues.

Job Options for Graduates

Graduates are employed by all levels of government, utilities, mapping, software and app developers, agriculture, forestry, municipalities, cities, criminology, architecture, engineering, consulting and other related organizations. Positions could include activities like traditional mapping to app development, assessing insurance risk to piloting UAVs and processing 3D imagery.

Most jobs will require working outside, sometimes in unpleasant weather.

Some jobs will require evening and weekend work and/or long hours of work, especially in the spring/summer/fall months.

Almost all jobs will require a **valid Manitoba driver's license**; many will require you to drive daily outside of the city's bus system. See information [here](#) and [here](#).

Most job opportunities will be outside of a city, in a smaller town or rural area.

Costs:

Tuition: see website and letter of acceptance.

Health insurance: All international students will **require** health insurance. Cost approximately \$1000.

Textbooks, tools and supplies: At least \$540. See lists [here](#); click on the "Tools and Supplies" tab.

Purchased on your own, not payable to college. **Required** early in program.

This is a **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** program. See [here](#). Any required computer equipment that you do not own now will be another expense.

Clothing and footwear: you may need to purchase new footwear and/or warm and rainproof clothing for outdoor activities.

Transportation and living costs are your responsibility.

Other important information:

Field trips will generally be outside; the weather could be cool or windy or rainy. You could be walking a long distance on uneven ground and in fields of dirt or crops. There could be insects. You will need comfortable and warm shoes/boots and clothing.

Location of most jobs will be outside of a city, so you will have the best opportunities if you will live and work in a small rural community.