

## **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:** Typically, during the last 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.

**Campus Location:** 1430 Victoria Avenue East, Brandon, Manitoba. 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 on the [Geographic Information Systems Advanced Diploma](#) page under 'Courses and Costs'.

### **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 safety clothing and equipment.
- 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.

### How Assiniboine 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.
- A Regulated International Student Immigration Advisor can answer questions related to permits.

### 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.

**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.