

San Diego Mesa Contact Information

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WomenTechWorld.org Welcome to the Women's Technician Club!

The national online home for women technicians to connect with each other .

WomenTechWorld.org: You're not alone any more. Check out all of the great resources that WomenTechWorld has to offer female technicians, whether you are a network administrator, an air conditioning and refrigeration technician or a female student in a tech major.

WomenTechTalk: Join the exciting WomenTech e-mail discussion group today! There's finally a great way to meet other women just like you through conversations that take place right in your email. WomenTech Talk serves as a source of support and inspiration for over 500 women and has been in existence since 2000.

E-Jobs: Find employers eager to hire women in traditionally male occupations. E-Jobs offers you an Auto Notify feature which gives you email notices when new jobs meeting your criteria have been posted.

E-Mentoring: It's hard to be a newbie, but it just became a little bit easier. E-Mentors connects female students in technology/trades with women successfully working in male-dominated fields.

Be sure to visit us at

<http://www.womentechworld.org/sdmesa>

Women in Geographic Information Systems Websites

Society of Women in GIS

<http://www.swigis.org/>

GIS Lounge: Women in GIS

<http://gislounge.com/link-library/women-in-gis/>

Supporting Women in Geography (SWIG)

<http://www.geography.wisc.edu/swig/>

Women in GIS Listserv

http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/GIS_women/

San Diego Mesa College and the CalWomenTech Project

7250 Mesa College Drive
San Diego, California 92111

Phone: (619)388-2682
<http://www.ccsf.edu>
<http://www.sdmesa.edu/gis/index.cfm>



Women in Geographic Information Systems are in High Demand!



Read on to see how
San Diego Mesa College
and the CalWomenTech
Project can help you start
a career in this exciting
field!

San Diego Mesa College
and the
CalWomenTech Project

www.womentechworld.org/sdmesa



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Geographic Information Systems @ San Diego Mesa College

Women's Success Stories

Michelle Boivin

Career Path: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technicians use computer hardware, software, and geographic data to collect, manage, analyze, and display location information. New graduates will find employment as GIS technicians, working in governments or private industry. With more experience, a graduate might be promoted to work as a GIS analyst in the same industry. After achieving an advanced skill level or a four-year degree, graduates would qualify for more advanced analyst positions, management level opportunities, or consulting roles.



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Nature of the Work: The nature of the work as a GIS technician varies significantly depending on the industry, company, and job title. However, much of the work in GIS is spent at a computer. Work for interns and new graduates often may also involve collecting data about locations in the field, typing that data into computer databases, and perhaps mapping and overlaying that data with other related information such as roads or other landmarks.

Specific Jobs Available to Graduates: This major can be applied in many settings dealing with spatial reasoning problems, and mapping and display of location information. The following list indicates fields which may be open to graduates of Mesa's GIS program: Geology, Geography & Oceanography, Physical and Life Sciences, Economics and Market Research Analysis, City and Regional Planning, Engineering and Transportation Management, Property and Real Estate Management, Communications and Utility Operations, Surveying and Mapping Services, Landscape Architecture, and many more.



Age 31,
Senior Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst
Employed by Technol-ogy Associates International Corporation

"The first step to success is stepping out of your comfort zone. At first I was a little timid or scared of speaking out and sharing ideas, but once I finally did, it built my confidence. I think a lot of women go through this, but you've got to make that first step, and the first step is the scariest."

Approx. Starting Salary:	\$22,000 - \$29,000 a year
Average Salary:	\$35,000 – \$49,000
Average Wage at Placement:	\$10 - \$16 per hour
Placement Rate:	Tremendous opportunities for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technicians have surfaced in the Southern California area. Students who do well in the GIS program will easily find a position as a GIS technician.
Labor Market:	Because the new technologies in GIS have such broad application, the labor market for workers trained in GIS is bustling. Most local governments, the military, and companies and consultants addressing environmental, transportation, water, and planning related issues collect and analyze data for GIS databases.

FAQs—Career and Academic

Are employers hiring for jobs in this area?

Yes! Tremendous opportunities for GIS technicians have surfaced in the Southern California area. Students who work hard and are motivated will have no problem finding employment into an entry level internship or technician position. Because the new technologies in GIS have such broad applications, the labor market for workers trained in GIS is bustling. Most local government, the military, and companies and consultants addressing environmental, transportation, water, and planning related issues collect and analyze data for GIS databases.

Can I pursue a career in this field without a background in technology?

Yes, definitely. However, it does help to have a basic understanding of geography and map reading, which you can take as a course elective (GEOG 101) if you don't have these skills. Students should also have basic computer and desktop software skills.

How much math do I really need?

Each new student at Mesa College takes a placement tests to determine her level of math skill. In the orientation which follows the placement tests, you'll receive counseling and advice about the best math course to start out with. Some basic math skills courses are available online. GISG 104, the Geographic Information Science and Spatial Reasoning course does have a math prerequisite or advisory recommending the level of math required – consult with your course catalog for details and discuss this with your counselor.

How long will it take to complete the GIS program?

The A.S. degree in GIS is a full-time, two-year program which requires 60 units of coursework. This includes general education requirements and courses required for the GIS major. Some students spread their coursework over a longer period due to family and work commitments.

The GIS certificate program is completed by most students in a year or less, depending on how the courses are scheduled.