

IT Project Manager

You do not write the code. You make sure the right thing gets built, on time, by people who do not report to you.

TYPICAL PAY

\$175,140

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$108k to \$298k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 8 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Software companies, banks, hospitals, government agencies,...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Math, English and any computing course. Organizing anything real, a team, a club, an event, counts for more than it sounds.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
Computer science, information systems or business are the common ones. Plenty of good project managers hold unrelated degrees.
- 3 A technical job first** 2 to 4 years
Support technician, tester, business analyst or developer. You need to understand what the team is actually doing.
- 4 Start coordinating** 1 to 2 years
Take the schedule, the status notes and the meeting nobody wants to run. This is how the title arrives.
- 5 Certify and specialize** Alongside work
CompTIA Project+ early on, then the PMP (Project Management Professional) once you have enough hours of leading projects.

Pros and cons

- + Very well paid for a job that needs no graduate degree
- + Easy to do remotely, and demand is projected to grow strongly
- + You see the whole system instead of one corner of it
- You are accountable for work done by people who do not report to you
- Meetings are the job, not an interruption from the job
- When a project slips, you are the one explaining it

Optional boosts

PMP (Project Management Professional). CompTIA Project+. Certified ScrumMaster or equivalent. Cloud fundamentals.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Computer and Information Systems Managers (11-3021.00)

O*NET OnLine: Computer and Information Systems Managers

CompTIA Project+ certification

CompTIA, certifications and training

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/it-project-manager>

Good to know

The group is 667,100 people and growing fast

Federal projections put employment of computer and information systems managers at 667,100 and expect growth of 7% or higher between 2024 and 2034, with about 55,600 openings over the deca...

Three things, and you only get to pick two

Every project is squeezed between scope, time and cost. Adding work without adding time or money is the single most common way projects fail, and saying so out loud is most of what a project manage...



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