

Project Manager

Keep a big piece of work on schedule and on budget, across a team that does not report to you.

TYPICAL PAY

\$102,320

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$62k to \$168k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 6 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Construction sites, hospitals, software companies, banks, gover...

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Run something real: a fundraiser, a robotics team, a school production. Organizing other people is the whole skill and you can start now.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 4 years
Business, engineering, construction management, computing or health administration. The degree subject matters less than the industry y...
- 3 Project coordinator or analyst** 1 to 3 years
Schedules, budgets, meeting notes, risk logs and chasing updates. You learn how work actually moves through an organization.
- 4 Run small projects yourself** Year 2 to year 4
A single workstream, then a whole small project with its own budget and deadline.
- 5 Certification** After 3 or more years
Once you have enough documented project hours, the PMP (Project Management Professional) is the credential employers recognize. The...
- 6 Project manager, then program manager** Ongoing
One project, then several at once, then a portfolio and a team of project managers.

Pros and cons

- + Every industry needs it, so your skills travel
- + Good pay without a specialist degree or a license
- + A clear ladder from coordinator to program director
- You are accountable for things you do not control
- Endless status meetings and reporting
- Deadline pressure is constant and public

Good to know

It is one of the faster growing office careers

Federal occupation data projects faster than average growth for project management specialists, with roughly 78,200 openings a year. Professional and technical services and construction are the two big...

The bar chart has a name

The horizontal bar chart every project plan uses is a Gantt chart, named after Henry Gantt, an American engineer who popularized it in the 1910s. It was first used to schedule shipbuilding and munitions wo...

Optional boosts

CAPM (Certified Associate in Project Management). PMP (Project Management Professional). Agile and scrum certifications. Construction credentials.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Project Management Specialists (13-1082.00)

O*NET OnLine: Project Management Specialists

Federal Acquisition Institute

Apprenticeship.gov, the Department of Labor apprenticeship finder

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/project-manager>



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