

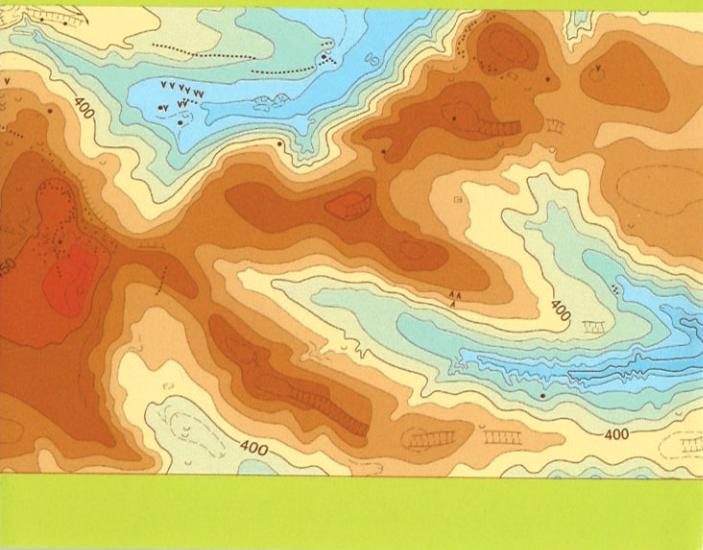
# The Value of Certification

Certification as a survey technician is official recognition by NSPS that a person has demonstrated that he or she is competent to perform surveying tasks at a specified technical level. Certification provides the individual with a sense of achievement, since it reflects advancement in the field of surveying. Certification also provides employers with a method of determining job assignments and advancement, since certification is an indication of one's ability to perform specific job tasks.

# Use as an Assessment Tool

The CST exam can be used as an excellent outcomes assessment tool for courses, programs, and schools. The CST program can be used in a number of ways:

- Satisfying accreditation requirements
- Assessing employees for promotions
- Conducting human resources evaluations
- Recognizing employees and advancing employees' careers






# CST Program Fact Sheet

**What:** The Certified Survey Technician program is a four-level certification program for surveying technicians throughout the United States.

**Why:**

- ➔ To provide recognition to the survey technicians in public and private practice.
- ➔ To provide objectives for improvement and advancement for field and office survey technicians.
- ➔ To give employers a way of judging the qualifications of potential employees.

How:	All Levels	Level I through III	Level IV
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Open-book exams.</li> <li>■ Certificate suitable for framing.</li> <li>■ Annual renewal of certification is \$40 (reinstatement fee: \$10).</li> <li>■ Available online and on paper. Both formats must be proctored.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Quarterly testing nationwide.</li> <li>■ Examinations are four hours in length.</li> <li>■ Multiple choice questions.</li> <li>■ If failed, no need to reapply within a one-year period; just pay examination fee for retesting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cycle I applications are due on or before December 15.</li> <li>■ Cycle III applications are due on or before June 15.</li> <li>■ Take-home exam format.</li> <li>■ Two months to complete.</li> <li>■ Essay/report form.</li> <li>■ Must hold active Level III certification or be a Licensed Land Surveyor.</li> </ul>

		<b>Level I</b> entry level	<b>Level II</b> minimum 1.5 years total experience	<b>Level III</b> minimum 3.5 years total experience	<b>Level IV</b> minimum 5.5 years total experience
OFFICE TRACK		Entry Level Position	Computer Operator	Chief Computer Operator	Survey Office Manager
FIELD TRACK		Entry Level Position	Instrument Person	Party Chief: Boundary or Construction	Survey Field Manager

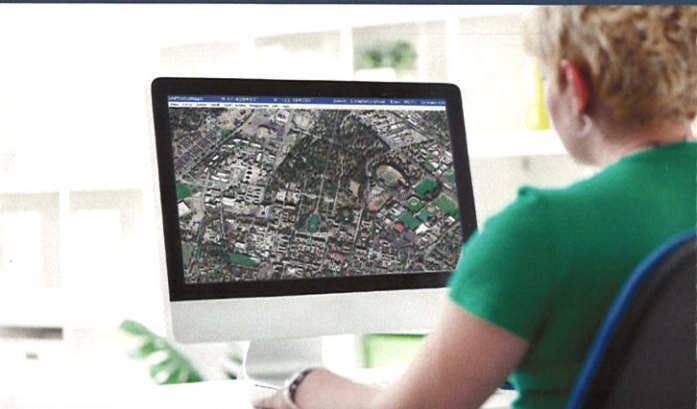
Discounts for students, active military and veterans. We also offer group discounts for 10 or more at the same location. Contact NSPS for more information.

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# What is the CST Program?

CST is a comprehensive national certification program for survey technicians, and is sponsored by the National Society of Professional Surveyors. The Certified Survey Technician Board administers the program, which is intended to gauge technical capabilities and general knowledge of workplace safety and procedures.

Four levels of certification are offered in two primary tracks – field and office. Certification is by examination, which must be monitored by an approved Proctor.



## The goals of the program are:

- Recognizing the important contribution that technicians provide to the surveying and mapping profession.
- Providing credentials to technicians.
- Providing a career ladder for technicians.
- Providing firms who support and utilize certified technicians a way to evaluate applicants and an opportunity to promote the fact that their technical staff is certified.
- Identifying those who have achieved specific technical competencies
- Providing use as an assessment tool.



***"Surveying companies are gaining a competitive advantage by making CST Certification 'the new normal' expectation for their surveying technicians."***

RICHARD BROOKS, CST COORDINATOR, NEW YORK



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