



CAREER PROFILE

Program Manager

JOB OUTLOOK²

Overall employment of program managers is projected to grow faster than the average for all occupations. Companies from different industries who produce a wide variety of goods and services require effective program managers who can bring efficiency to project completion and maximize company profits. However, the job outlook for this role may vary by industry. Overall employment of program managers by manufacturing firms is not expected to change over the next ten years, and is subject to growth or decline in other specific industries. On the other hand, employment of construction managers is projected to grow faster than average to meet the demands of expected growth in construction activity.

SALARY RANGE²

\$62,250 – \$144,800

WHO ARE THEY?^{1,2}

Program managers are highly organized, collaborative, leadership-oriented professionals who know how to bring people together to get things done on time. They bring energy to fast-paced, deadline-driven work environments, analytical minds for breaking down, organizing, and troubleshooting complex tasks, and a knack for combining groups representing diverse areas of expertise. Program managers are comfortable interacting with cross-functional teams and colleagues from all levels of the organization chart. They are approachable and easy to work with, but always willing to raise difficult questions to resolve issues. Successful program managers deliver products on time, at budgeted cost, with as little drama as possible.

WHAT DO THEY DO?^{1,2}

Program managers lead and monitor cross-functional teams to ensure complex projects are completed on time and on budget. Program managers analyze tasks and identify the steps and resources required to bring complicated projects to fruition. They clarify and communicate milestones to teammates representing different areas of expertise, and identify and negotiate with outside vendors who can provide necessary services. They organize and track completion of project components, finding and negotiating solutions to problems that arise along the way. Project managers reflect on current and past projects to design workflow structures and processes to make future projects more efficient.



CAREER PROFILE

Program Manager

EDUCATION/ TRAINING

- Bachelor's degree in management or an industry-specific field such as construction management, engineering, computer science, or architecture.
- On-the-job training that includes instruction on cost estimation techniques, negotiation, and industry-specific software

HOW DO I BECOME ONE?²

Most program managers will need at least a bachelor's degree, although some construction firms may hire program managers based on years of experience. To find success in this career, individuals will also need to have strong communication skills, excellent analytical skills, time management skills, and be detail oriented. Math skills will also be very important.

¹ "Principal Program Manager, Cloud Solutions." Microsoft..

² "Occupational Outlook Handbook." U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/computer-and-information-research-scientists.htm>.