Entry-Level Surveyor

Prairie Engineers
ENGINEERS · SURVEYORS · SCIENTISTS

Build Your Career in Surveying. Grow with Our Midwest and Mississippi River Region Team.

Launch your surveying career with Prairie Engineers and gain the hands-on experience, professional mentorship, and technical knowledge needed to pursue Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) licensure in the states where we work.

Prairie Engineers, P.C., recognized as one of Zweig Group's Best Firms to Work For in each of the past five years, is seeking a motivated Entry-Level Surveyor based in one of our offices in Hannibal, MO; Keokuk, IA; Columbia, IL; Springfield, IL; Hillsboro, IL; Vicksburg, MS; or Lenexa, KS. You'll work with experienced surveyors, engineers, and geospatial professionals on challenging state and federal projects throughout the Midwest, Mississippi River region, and across the country.

From boundary and topographic surveys to geodetic control, hydrography, LiDAR, and sUAS mapping, you'll gain exposure to diverse surveying disciplines and modern technologies. This full-time position combines extensive fieldwork and travel with office assignments involving survey calculations, data processing, and preparation of professional survey plats, plans, and legal descriptions under the guidance of licensed surveyors.

It's an opportunity for someone who enjoys fieldwork, is eager to learn, and wants to help build a growing surveying practice while advancing toward professional licensure.

What You'll Do

Perform boundary, topographic, geodetic control, hydrographic, and other specialized surveys

Learn to operate and become proficient with GNSS receivers, robotic total stations, and electronic field data collection equipment

Collect field measurements and verify their accuracy and completeness while following safety and quality standards

Perform calculations and process survey data in the office, checking and reducing field measurements

Prepare plats, plans, legal descriptions, and other survey deliverables

Support state and federal agency projects throughout the United States

Collaborate with surveyors, engineers, and geospatial specialists while taking on greater responsibility as your skills grow

What You'll Bring

Education & Licensure: A bachelor's degree in surveying or a related field, including education and coursework supporting a recognized professional land surveying licensure pathway. A demonstrated interest in pursuing professional land surveyor licensure is essential.

Travel & Fieldwork: Ready for overnight travel on approximately 80% of work assignments initially, generally in trips of 10 days or less; comfortable working outdoors in varied terrain and weather. Prairie provides lodging and per diem.

Driving Requirements: A valid driver's license and acceptable driving record.

Aptitude & Dependability: Interest in mathematics, technology, spatial reasoning, and practical problem-solving; attention to detail, safety awareness, initiative, and professional communication.

How You Align

People-Focused: You value relationships and team growth, and will help build a respectful team where everyone can contribute and develop.

Can-Do Attitude: You approach challenges positively and develop flexible, innovative solutions.

Responsive: You communicate openly, proactively, and promptly.

Compensation

Base salary: $55,000–$70,000, plus premium overtime, based on location, education, experience, and job-related knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Benefits at a glance: Fully employer-paid employee health premiums, an employer-funded HRA, a 401(k) contribution, and four weeks (160 hours) of annual paid time off (PTO) for eligible employees.

Your Path Toward Professional Licensure

Build a long-term surveying career with licensed Professional Land Surveyors based across our offices as your mentors, and Prairie's companywide team of 12 licensed Professional Land Surveyors. With their guidance, you'll develop field and office skills and progress toward these professional milestones:

1. **Build your foundation:** Gain experience with boundary and control surveys, GNSS fieldwork, computations, data processing, plats, and legal descriptions under licensed supervision.
2. **Work toward SIT certification:** Prepare for the NCEES Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exam, then apply for Surveyor-in-Training (SIT) certification in the appropriate state when you meet the Board's requirements.
3. **Develop qualifying experience:** Take on increasingly responsible boundary surveying work under RPLS supervision, including delegated responsible charge where appropriate, and document your experience.
4. **Pursue RPLS licensure:** Prepare for the NCEES Principles and Practice of Surveying (PS) exam and any state-specific examination, and pursue Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) registration once you meet the applicable Board's requirements.

Explore the Region and Beyond

Initially, the position involves overnight travel for approximately 80% of work assignments, with most trips lasting 10 days or less. Prairie provides lodging and per diem. As your skills and experience grow, travel may decrease as you take on additional office responsibilities. Initial assignments include long-term U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects throughout the Midwest and Mississippi River region (including Rock Island, St. Louis, and Vicksburg Districts), with additional state and federal assignments nationwide. Expect changing locations, long field days, and varied terrain and weather, balanced with office time to process data and prepare deliverables.

Why Build Your Career at Prairie Engineers?

- **Licensure support:** Mentorship, eligible training and enrollment fees, related travel expenses, and paid time for professional classes and licensing exams.
- **Broad experience:** Exposure to boundary and control surveys, hydrography, photogrammetry, LiDAR mapping, and complex federal projects.
- **A team to learn from:** Guidance from experienced survey party chiefs, survey technicians, CADD technicians, hydrographers, sUAS pilots, engineers, photogrammetrists, and LiDAR experts.
- **Growth opportunity:** Join one of our Midwest or Mississippi River region offices and help build Prairie's surveying presence.
- **People-focused culture:** Learn from professionals across our offices in a collaborative team that invests in your growth.
- **Competitive benefits:** Fully employer-paid premiums for employee health coverage; employer-funded HRA; 401(k) with a 3% employer contribution once eligible; paid holidays; four weeks (160 hours) of annual paid time off (PTO) for eligible employees; bonus opportunities; a separately tracked 80-hour Compensatory Time Off (CTO) bank for hours over 40 per week, followed by 1.5× premium pay; and company-provided lodging and meal per diem during deployments.

If you're excited about becoming a professional surveyor and ready to learn, travel, and take on challenging work, **apply through the Careers page** at **prairieengineers.com** and submit your resume and a brief introduction describing your interest in surveying and your career goals; or via email to jobs@prairieengineers.com.

Prairie Engineers, P.C. is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified individuals will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, or gender identity), national origin, age (40 or older), disability, genetic information (including family medical history), or any other legally protected status. Candidates must be authorized to work for any employer in the United States. Visa sponsorship is not available for this position.