

Drone-Enabled Occupations Evidence Guide

NAME _____

DATE _____

PERIOD _____

A drone is a tool. The occupation tells you the work.

All values are **May 2024 U.S. national medians** and **2024-2034 national projections** from BLS, accessed August 2026. They are not DFW starting pay or guarantees.

OCCUPATION	WHAT THE WORKER PRODUCES	DRONE OR DATA CONNECTION	TYPICAL PREPARATION	MEDIAN	GROWTH	OPENINGS/YEAR
Surveying and Mapping Technician	Field measurements, site records, maps, and GIS data	May gather site images and processes mapping data	HS diploma typical; moderate-term OJT; some employers prefer GIS or technical education	\$51,940	5%	7,600
Cartographer / Photogrammetrist	Maps and geospatial products	Integrates imagery, LiDAR, GIS, CAD, and field data	Bachelor's degree	\$78,380	6%	1,000
Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologist / Technician	Test records, equipment data, and maintenance documentation	Runs, tests, records, and maintains equipment used to develop aircraft systems	Associate degree typical; some employers consider certificate or HS routes	\$79,830	8%	900

READ ONE ROW AT A TIME

1. Circle the work product.

2. Box the preparation.

3. Underline the pay label: **May 2024 U.S. national median**.

4. Keep growth and annual openings together.
- Words for this task:** median/mediana · growth/crecimiento · annual openings/vacantes anuales · preparation/preparación

Published classroom comparison rule

This is a course rule for comparing the three cards. It is not an official government designation.

- **High wage:** the May 2024 national median is above the same-source all-occupations median of \$49,500.
- **High demand:** 2024-2034 growth is above the all-occupations projection of 3%. Keep annual openings visible.
- **High skill:** preparation includes postsecondary education or moderate/long-term training, and the work uses specialized technical duties.

WHAT THE RULE DOES NOT PROVE

- Every worker in the occupation uses a drone.
- A national median is a local or starting salary.
- Faster growth always means more openings.
- A classification guarantees a job or predicts personal fit.

FICTIONAL TAYLOR'S DECISION

Taylor likes fieldwork and technology but is not yet sure about a four-year degree. In the Canvas evidence check, Taylor must choose a first occupation to investigate, cite two facts, name one tradeoff, and identify a current source or authorized person for the next question.

Use this frame: “Taylor should investigate _ ***first because*** and _ . ***A tradeoff is*** . Taylor should verify _ ***with*** _.”

Sources

BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook: Surveying and Mapping Technicians; Cartographers and Photogrammetrists; Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians. Accessed August 2026.