

Converting GIS Contour Data to CAD for use in 3D Modeling

1. Open ArcMap and add contour data
2. Check for “elevation” field in the GIS Data
 - **Right Click** on your contour GIS file → Open Attribute Table
 - Look for a field named “elevation” – not “elev” or “elev_ft”. If such a field does not exist you’ll have to create a new field (Step 3). If the “elevation” field does exist move to Step 5
3. Adding a field to your GIS Dataset
 - With the **Attributes Table Open** click on the **Options** button in the lower right hand corner.
 - Click on **Add Field**
 - Window will appear and in the **Field Name** type in “**elevation**”. **Click OK** and the field will be added to your Attribute Table
4. Applying Data to the newly created field.
 - Find the existing elevation field in your dataset – it is probably called “elev_ft” or “elev”; or something to that degree. Don’t click on this data but you’ll need to know what the data name is in the coming steps.
 - **Right-click** on the “elevation” field you just created and click on **Field Geometry**. You’ll be asked if it’s ok to calculate values outside of an editing session: **Click OK**.
 - The **Field Calculator** window will appear. Under the fields window, **double-click** on the incorrectly named elevation field (it may be “elev_ft” or “elev”). This will set the elevation data in the newly created “elevation” field equal to the information in the old elevation field.
 - **Click Ok** and your “elevation” field will be populated with the elevation data
5. Converting the GIS file to a DWG or DXF File
 - Open ArcToolbox → Conversion Tools → To CAD → Export To CAD
 - If you have a student version of ArcGIS you will not have this tool.
 - Make sure the output type is **DWG_R2000 or DXF_R2000**
 - Save the file to a place where you can easily find it later
 - **Uncheck** “Ignore Paths” and “Append to Existing Files” if they are checked
 - **Do not** seed the file and if this box is checked, uncheck it
6. Open up AutoCAD and open the DWG or DXF file you created in GIS.