



# ***GISCI*** ***Certification***

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# GISCI Certification

- 4570 Certified GIS Professionals
  - 91 in Arizona
  - 17 in the Tucson Area
- GISPs Endorsed
  - California
  - Montana
  - New Jersey
  - Ohio
  - Oregon
  - North Carolina



# Terminology

- **Certification**  
Process demonstrating level of expertise in a profession  
Designed to recognize expertise
- **Certificate**  
Award given recognizing completion of academic or training program
- **Licensure**  
The granting of a license to practice a profession  
Often regulated by states and indoctrinated in legislation  
Guards against incompetence
- **Accreditation**  
Process of evaluating the academic qualifications or standards of an institution or program of study in accordance with pre-established criteria



# HISTORY

- 1999 URISA

- 2004 GISCI

Joint effort comprised

AAG - Association of American Geographers

NSGIC - National States Geographic Council

UCGIS - University Consortium for Geographic Information Science

URISA - Urban and Regional Information System Association



# PURPOSE of GISCI

*Provide*

- Recognition by colleagues and peers
- Establish and maintain high standards
- Encourage
  - Aspiring GIS professionals
  - Established GIS professionals



# PURPOSE of Certification

- Career recognition
- Satisfaction
- Self-Improvement
- Credibility



# Certification Requirements

- Education

Basis of knowledge

- Experience

Most important – 4 years experience in GIS application and/or data development

- Contribution to the Profession



# Education

- **Credential Points**
  - MA
  - BS or BA
  - Associate Degree
  - GIS Certification
- **Course Points**
  - Educational activities related directly to geospatial information science or related technology, and application
- **Conference Attendance**
  - Sponsored by professional societies and regional and local user groups



# Experience

- Tier I
  - GIS Analysis, System Design, Data Development, Programming
- Tier II
  - Data Compilation, Data Maintenance, Map Composition, Teaching
- Tier III
  - GIS User
- Supervisory Bonus
  - Must compliment other 3 tiers



# Tier I

## Examples:

- Data modeling
- Database design
- Needs assessment
- Application design and development
- Programming evaluation (software programming critique, in contrast to program evaluation)
- Data creation
- Application of photogrammetric science and technology to create data
- Geocomputation
- Remote sensing
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Spatial analysis
- System implementation and deployment



# Tier II

## Examples:

- Database management
- Data management
- Editing data
- Visualization and reporting
- Database and system administration (to the extent that it requires knowledge of spatial data)
- Querying data (in the process of doing other spatial data work)
- Geocoding (a form of data conversion)
- Map composition
- Report generation
- Utilization of GPS

# Tier II

*(continued)*

## Examples:

- Utilization of photogrammetric outputs
- Database maintenance
- Manage GIS layers
- Map evaluation
- Transaction management of GIS data
- Quality assurance and quality control
- Support and installation of GIS (not the normal IT responsibilities)
- Data validation
- Instructional training
- Teaching



# Tier III

## Examples:

- Technical support and troubleshooting
- Maintain GIS web capabilities
- Utilization of applications involving geospatial technologies
- Management and coordination of GIS outside of technical implementation.
- Data acquisition



# Contribution to the Profession

## Some involvement with

- Publication
- Professional association
- Conference participation
- Workshop instruction
- Awards



# Examples

- GIS Publications
- Published Maps
- Paper in Conference Proceedings
- Magazine/Journal/Newsletter Column Editor
- GIS-Related Professional Association
- Board Chair
- Board Membership
- Association/Organization Membership
- GIS Conference Participation
- Conference Chairperson
- Conference Committee Member
- GIS Awards Received
- National Award
- Local/Regional/State Award



# Code of Ethics

- Obligation to Society
  - Best work possible
  - Contribute to the community
  - Speak out about issues
- Obligations to Employers
  - Quality work
  - Professional relationship
  - Honesty in representation
- Obligations to Colleagues and the Profession
  - Respect work of others
  - Contribute to the discipline
- Obligation to Individuals in Society
  - Respect privacy
  - Respect individuals



# Costs

- \$ 250.00 Initial Certification
- \$ 115.00 Renewal

Is there a financial gain?

– Possible but not assured



# Renewal

- 40 points minimum
  - Educational (10 Points)
  - Contribution to the Profession (10 Points)
  - Work Experience Points – no minimum required
  - Additional points to be earned from a combination of Education, Work Experience, and Contributions (20 points)
- Cost currently \$115.00



# Other Certifications

- Certified Mapping Scientist, GIS/LIS
  - The American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS)
- Cadastral Mapping Specialist
  - International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)

## *In the works*

- Technical certifications
  - ESRI
    - Designed around the use of ESRI's products
    - Complimentary to the GISCI Certification



# Contact Information

- **GIS Certification Institute**
  - <http://www.gisci.org/>
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# Questions

