THE GIS CERTIFICATION INSTITUTE (GISC)

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

West Virginia Association of Geospatial Professionals
2011 WVAGP/EPAN Annual Meeting
June 14-15, 2011
National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

Samuel R. Lammie
GIS Program Manager
Monongahela National Forest
200 Sycamore Street
Elkins, West Virginia  26241

Phone:  304-636-1800 ext 207
Email:  slammie@fs.fed.us
BACKGROUND

• Urban and Regional Information Systems Association’s (URISA) Certification Committee was formed in 1999
• GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) adopted certification program in late 2003 and Scott Grams is named the Executive Director
• Program went online on January 1, 2004
**TERMINOLGY**

- **Certification:** A process, often voluntary, by which individuals who have demonstrated a level of expertise in the profession are identified to the public and other stakeholders by a third party. Designed to recognize expertise.

- **Licensure:** The granting of a license to practice a profession. Often regulated by states and indoctrinated in legislation. Designed to guard against incompetence. (*ie WV State Code §30-13A-10 Surveying license requirements*)

- **Accreditation:** The process of evaluating the academic qualifications or standards of an institution or program of study in accordance with pre-established criteria.

- **Certificate:** An award given to an individual recognizing completion of an academic or training program.
Formally endorsed by a number of states (e.g., Oregon and North Carolina)

National States
Geographic Information Council

American Assn of Geographers

Association of American Geographers
THE MISSION OF GISCI

To maintain the high standards and integrity of the GIS profession and promote ethical conduct within it.
WHY CERTIFY?

- GISCI reflects a GIS standing and profession
- GIS professionals are typically trained for and are required to apply a diverse set of GIS skills and capabilities, as part of their primary professional role.

Department of Labor considers Geospatial Technologies a high-growth industry and because of that has developed a corresponding competency model (one of 16 models that are available and is shown here) (http://www.careeronestop.org/)
WHO QUALIFIES?

- GISCI strives to identify and recognize GIS professionals.
- GISCI does not look to restrict the use of GIS.
- Other professionals (surveyors, cartographers, landscape ecologists, etc.) can be GIS professionals.
WHAT CAN CERTIFICATION PROVIDE?

1) Professional recognition program for established GIS professionals.

2) Means of identification that can be used by colleagues, employers, the public, and other licensed or certified professionals.

3) Implementation of a professional code of ethics that identifies bad practice and upholds good practice.

4) Professional development yardstick through initial and recertification requirements.
PROCESS

• Point-based, self-documented, non-examination system
• Based on achievement in three categories:
  1. **Educational** achievement
  2. Professional **experience**
  3. **Contributions** to the profession

Currently there is no exam although GISCI has recently proposed a *competency-based examination process that will be integrated in to the certification process in 2014*
MINIMUM CATEGORY POINTS

- Educational Achievement (EDU)  30 points
- Professional Experience (EXP)  60 points
- Contributions to the Profession (CON)     8 points
- Additional (Flex) Points in any of the three Categories:  52 points

Total = 150 points

Flex points allows one to make up for a lack in one category with an excess in another (i.e., long on GIS experience, short on education)
1. EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (EDU)

There are three EDU components:

1. **Credential Points** (degrees in any field)
2. **Course Points** (geospatial technology courses & workshops)
3. **Conference Attendance Points** (days spent at relevant meetings and conferences)
2. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (EXP)

- **Tier 1: Analyst, System Design, Programming**
  Typical tasks include database design or management, documentation or analysis of functional requirements, application design and evaluation, implementation management, and system administration. = 25 Points Per Year

- **Tier 2: Data Compilation, Data Maintenance, Teaching**
  Typical tasks include editing data, map composition, report generation, database maintenance, data validation, instructional training, and teaching. = 15 Points Per Year

- **Tier 3: GIS User**
  Typical tasks include utilization of applications involving geospatial technologies. Candidates may be involved in managing or coordinating GIS, but not involved in the technical implementation of GIS. = 10 Points Per Year
2. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (contd)

- Applicants must have a combination of at least 4 years (48 months) of professional GIS experience to apply for GIS Certification.
- If the applicant has met the minimum requirement with less than 4 years of experience then the applicant must wait until 4 years of professional GIS experience is accrued.
3. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROFESSION (CON)

• Eight categories of contribution points:
  1. GIS publications
  2. GIS professional association involvement
  3. GIS conference participation
  4. GIS workshop instruction
  5. GIS conference presentation
  6. GIS awards received
  7. GIS volunteer efforts
  8. Other GIS contributions
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

• **Code of Ethics & Rules of Conduct**

  All accepted candidates must sign the GISCI Code of Ethics.

• **Renewal**
  
  • Every five years
  
  • Minimum points in each category and total since initial certification

Grandfathering provision expired in December, 2008
THE APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

• The GISCI Staff performs a QUANTITATIVE review to determine if points documented and added correctly.

• QUALITATIVE review conducted by the GISCI Review Board.

• Candidates notified within 2 – 3 months of acceptance/rejection.

• Cost of certification is $250. Renewal is $115.

WVAGP will pay 50% of the GIS certification or renewal fee for its members who reside or work in West Virginia.

WVAGP resolution
CURRENT GISCI STATUS

- 4,760 certified GIS Professionals (GISPs) as of April 25, 2011
- Currently, 26 GIS Professionals are certified in the State
Thank You...Any Questions?

David DiBiase President
Sheila Wilson, Executive Director
ESRI TECHNICAL CERTIFICATION

Overview

The Esri Technical Certification Program recognizes qualified individuals who are proficient in best practices for using Esri software. Esri Technical Certifications are awarded in different areas of expertise at both an Associate and Professional level. The program is open to Esri users worldwide.

Desktop
ArcGIS Desktop
Associate | Professional

Developer
ArcGIS Desktop Developer
Associate | Professional
Web Application Developer
Associate | Professional
Mobile Developer
Associate | Professional

Enterprise
Enterprise Geodatabase Management
Associate | Professional
Enterprise System Design
Associate | Professional
Enterprise Administration
Associate

* Certification is in development.
ESRI TECHNICAL CERTIFICATION

ArcGIS Desktop Associate

Overview | Qualifications | Skills Measured | Training Resources

Esri Certified ArcGIS Desktop Associates are adept at applying basic GIS and ArcGIS concepts and processes to workflows and are skilled at using ArcGIS Desktop to visualize, manage, and analyze geospatial data.

This certification is targeted for ArcGIS 10 Desktop users with the equivalent of two or more years experience using ArcGIS.

⇒ Sample questions  [PDF - 98 KB]
⇒ Esri Technical Certification: Skills Review for ArcGIS Desktop Associate

- Exam price: $225 USD
- Exam time limit: 2 hours and 30 minutes
- Number of questions: 95
- Certification code: EADA10

Register for an Exam
You can take Esri Technical Certification exams at over 5,000 locations worldwide.

Register Now