



GIS CERTIFICATION INSTITUTE

GISPs in Oklahoma



Why Certify?

Ensure a core competency of knowledge

Provide recognition of achievement in the GIS field

Assist prospective employers

Assist educational choices by current/prospective GIS practitioners

Encourage long-term professional development



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



Certification

Voluntary

For those whose primary job responsibility involves geospatial technology

Self-documented, point-based system

No examination

Administered by the GIS Certification Institute
(www.gisci.org)



Self-regulation

Unlicensed professions regulate themselves.

Voluntary certification programs are the most popular form of self-regulation.

Certification protects the profession from those erroneously claiming to have expertise in the profession.



GIS as a Profession

Attributes of a Profession

Mission



Common language



Specialized training



Culture and lore

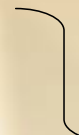


Specialized body
of knowledge



*GIS&T Body of Knowledge
(UCGIS / AAG)*

Formal organization



Code of ethics

Licensing/Certification

*GIS Certification
Institute (GISCI)*



GIS as a Profession

Federal Government

 **UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**
Employment and Training Administration

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High Growth Industry Profile - Geospatial Technology

Industry Snapshots

- Revenues from the public sector lead geospatial market growth and account for more than one-third of total revenues. While state and local governments were among the early adopters of GIS technology, recent trends toward devolving responsibilities to state and local governments have spurred those entities to become important consumers of GIS. While industries such as utilities, telecommunications, transportation and education, are the largest consumers of GIS/Geospatial technology, growth remains dependent upon business adoption based on the added-value these technologies provide (see [GIS/Geospatial Markets and Opportunities](#))
- Geospatial products and specialists are expected to play a large role in homeland security activities. The need to protect critical infrastructure have resulted in an enormous increase in the demand for such services (see [Human Resources Department](#))
- Because the uses for geospatial technology are so widespread and diverse, the market is growing rapidly. The geospatial market is growing at a rate of 10 percent, with the commercial subsection of the market expanding at the rate of 100 percent.



GIS CERTIFICATION INSTITUTE

GIS Certification Institute

Define the profession

Build a body of professionals

Advocate for the profession

Support the professionals



How did GISCI evolve?

Concept of certification first publicly introduced by Nancy Obermeyer

Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) Journal entitled, "Certifying GIS Professionals: Challenges and Alternatives" (Volume 5, Number 1: Spring 1993).

URISA developed certification committee in 1997

Lack of consensus on examination

Diverse field, different software, multiple disciplines

2001 – Developed a method to target the shared elements of GIS practitioners

Benchmarks include education, experience, and contributing back to the profession.

Result: voluntary, self-documented, independently verified, tiered, point-based system. Minimum standards for practice.



HISTORY

1999 URISA

2004 GISCI

Joint effort by:

AAG - Association of American Geographers

NSGIC - National States Geographic Council

UCGIS - University Consortium for Geographic Information Science

URISA - Urban and Regional Information System Association



Member Organizations

URISA (2004)



AAG (2004)



NSGIC (2004)



UCGIS (2005)



GITA (2010)





Standing Committees

Applicant Review Committee - advises in the process of application evaluations

Certification Committee - assesses the ongoing success of the certification program

Ethics Committee - implements the adopted method of receiving, evaluating, and resolving complaints of unethical practice

Outreach Committee - works to increase the exposure and effectiveness of GISCI and its certification programs, and to enhance the support of GISPs



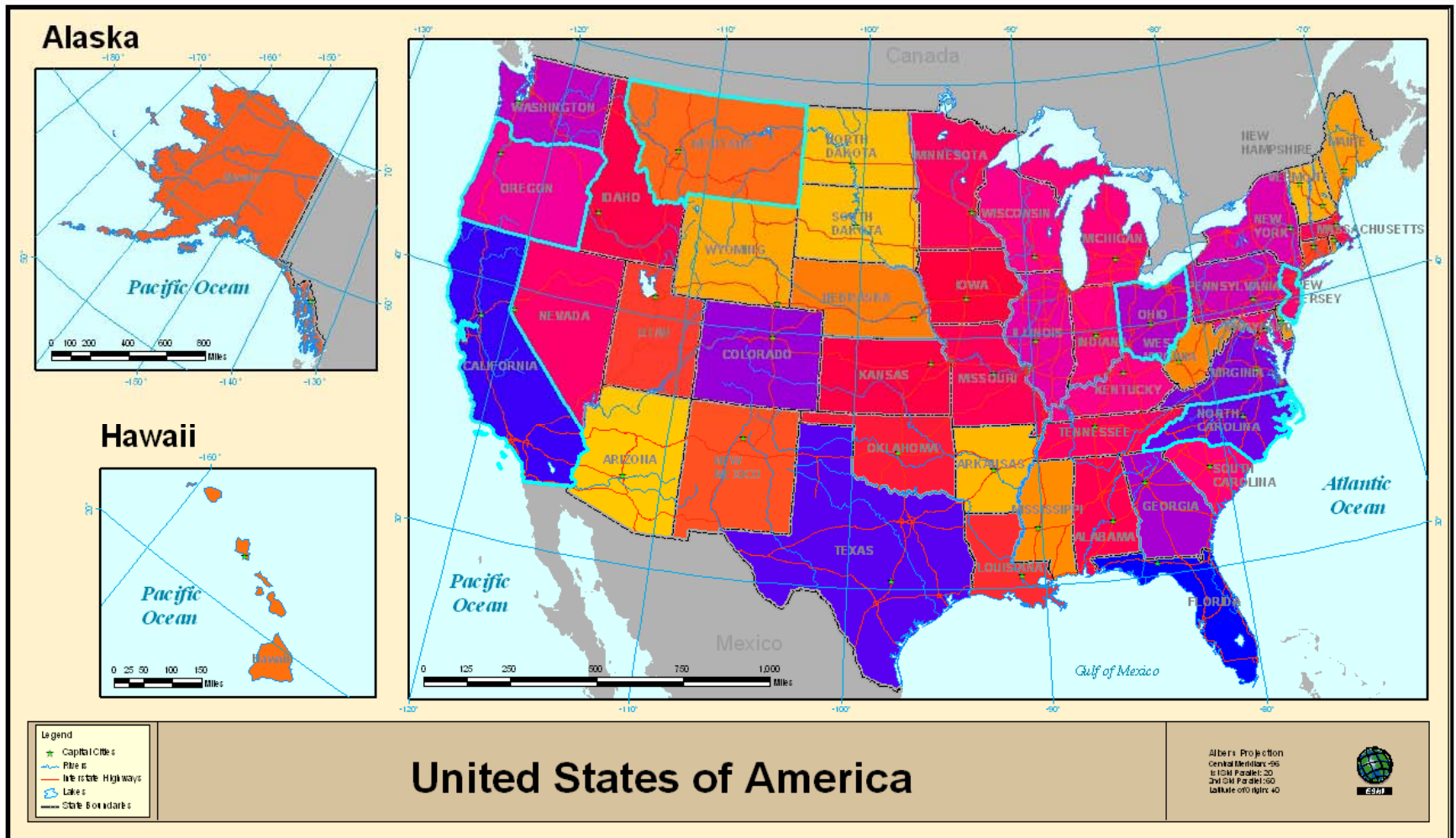
Additional Factoids

About 4700 certified GISPs, as of April,
2010

36 in Oklahoma



Additional Factoids





PURPOSE of GISCI

Provide

Recognition by colleagues and peers

Establish and maintain high standards

Encourage

Aspiring GIS professionals

Established GIS professionals



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



Contributions to the Profession

Some involvement with

Publications

Professional associations

Conference participation

Workshop instruction

Awards



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



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



GISP

endorsed by six states

California

Ohio

Montana

Oregon

New Jersey

North Carolina



GISP Endorsement in Oklahoma

“Montanans (via the Montana Association of Geographic Information Professionals and the Montana Land Information Act Council) are very happy to have endorsed GISP Certification. As more and more people who may or may not have a background in geography have access to GIS technology, I feel that it is increasingly important to have a professional certification along with a promise of ethical conduct. It validates the work we do as professionals, just as there are Professional Engineers and other certified professions. The Montana GIS community has rallied around the concept of certification and now works even harder to offer continuing education opportunities. This ultimately benefits everyone in our state as better information becomes available to decision makers.”

-Kris Larson, MAGIP Past President and MLIA Council Member



GISCI – What's Next?

Outreach

Conferences: AAG, GITA, ESRI, UCGIS,
URISA, NSGIC

State endorsements

Human Resources

Newsletter



GISCI – What's Next?

Website Redesign

White papers

Committee Volunteers

Ethics, Applicant Review, Certification,
and Outreach



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