GISP – A Student Perspective

- GISCI Structure
- GISP Certification History
- GISP Current Process
- Exam Creation
- Future Direction
GISP – A Student Perspective

WHY CERTIFY?
GISP – A Student Perspective

• The GISP is becoming increasingly recognized in the profession!
• More jobs include it as a preferred certification
• The GISCI Exam will become a ‘rite of passage’ for graduating geospatial students
Member Organizations

- NSGIC
- URISA
- GITA
- GIS Certification Institute
- GLIS
- UCGIS
- AAG
Strategic Partners 2015
Board Members

One of the strengths of GISCI has been the strong and diversified Board representation over the years!

Our current Board makeup reflects that same passion, experience, and service.
Board Members

Martin Roche  GISP
GeoPlanning Services LLC
URISA Representative

Allen Ibaugh GISP
Data Transfer Solutions
URISA Representative
Board Members

Tony Simental  GISP
W VA Office of GIS Coordination
NSGIC Representative

Mike Vanhook GISP
AL Dept of Finance
NSGIC Representative
Board Members

Jeff Hamerlinck  GISP   Secretary
WY Geographic Information Science Center

UCGIS Representative

Dr. Helmut Kraenzle
James Madison University

UCGIS Representative
Board Members

John Kelmelis, PhD.
AAG
AAG Representative

Michael S. Scott, Ph.D.  GISP
Salisbury University
AAG Representative
Board Members

Becky Shumate  GISP    Vice President
PennWell Publishing
GITA Representative

Talbot Brooks  GISP
Delta State University
GITA Representative
Board Members

William (Bill) Coleman  RPLS  GISP
Coleman & Associates Land Surveying
GLIS Representative

Richard Smith, Ph.D
Texas A&M – Corpus Christi
GLIS Representative
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HOW DO WE MOVE FROM THE BIRTH OF AN INDUSTRY TO CERTIFICATION?
One certification leads to another

- Managerial Certification
- Higher Level Certification
- Entry Level Certification
- General Certification
- Provisional Certification
### ACTIVE GISPs: CERTIFICATION HISTORY

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GISP Current Process

Initial GISP: Portfolio Requirement + Exam

- Ethics Statement
- 4 Years Min Geospatial Experience
- Portfolio Application
  - Education, Experience, Contributions
- GISCI Geospatial Core Technical Knowledge
Exam Required
Recertification: Portfolio Requirement

• Education & Contributions Required
• Experience (Optional)
• Exam Not Required for Recertification
• Online Application
• 3 Year Recertification Period
GISP Current Process

1. GiSCI Registration (no fee)
2. Application & Application Fee ($100)
3. Portfolio & Portfolio Review Fee ($100)
4. Exam & Exam Fee ($250)
5. GISP Certification
6. Annual Renewal Fee ($95)
7. 3 Years: Recertification -- Portfolio Update Only (No additional fee)
Recertification Process

GISP Certification → Annual Renewal Fee ($95) → 3 Years: Recertification--Portfolio Update Only (No additional fee)
Initial GISP Cost:

- Application Fee - $100
- Portfolio Review Fee - $100
- Exam Fee - $250
- 3 Year Certification Period
GISP Current Process

Recertification Cost:

• Annual Maintenance Fee - $95/year or
• $285 as one payment
• No Exam Required
• 3 Year Certification Period
• Recertification Application Online
GISCI – A Student Perspective

GISCI Structure
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Exam Creation History

July 2010  -  GISCI Considers Updates to Certification Program
March 2011 -  GISCI Accepts Public Comments Re: Exam
May 2011  -  GISCI Board Decides to Update the GISP Process
June 2011 -  GISCI Endorses GTCM
Aug 2012  -  GISCI Board Selects Exam Development Project Mgr
July 2013 -  GISPns Solicited to Participate in Exam Development
Sept 2013 -  GISCI Selects Test Development Contractor
Oct 2013  -  GISCI Releases Exam Development Process Summary
May 2015 -  GISCI Prepares Bank of Exam Questions

Nov 2015  -  Exam Deployment
Exam Consultants

Rebecca Somers GISP
Exam Development Project Manager
Somers- St. Claire

Test Development Consultant
HumRRO/PSI
Exam Creation

- Written by GISPs for GISP
- GISPs received direct invitation to participate
- GISCI received 450+ responses
- 350+ were qualified to participate
Exam Creation Considerations

MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS

• The Exam will be in addition to the Portfolio Process
• Implementation is scheduled for November 2015
• All GISP s are considered equal
• No Exam required for renewal
• At Exam Implementation, all new applicants will be required to test
• The entire GISP Process will be accredited by a 3rd party agency
• Exam offered twice each year
Exam Creation Process

EXAM BLUEPRINT: Exam Components

Knowledge Category

Conceptual Foundations
Cartography & Visualization
GIS Design Aspects & Data Modeling
GIS Analytical Methods
Data Manipulation
Geospatial Data

Exam to be offered every 6 months
Exam Creation and Addition

ADVANTAGES OF AN EXAM

• Provides Increased Rigor Of Professional Certification
• Builds Upon The Established, Successful GISP Portfolio
• Increased Student Participation
• Provides An Entry For Students Early In Their Careers
• Provides A Basis For A Move To More Specialized Certifications
• It Continues To Advance And Consolidate The Profession
ADVANTAGES OF AN EXAM TO A STUDENT

• Provides entry into a process of Professional Certification
• Provides an opportunity to differentiate yourself
• Provides An Entry For Students Early In Their Careers
• Allows you to show capability in addition to a degree
• Shows an employer you are looking to the future

• The exam will become a rite of passage for graduating geospatial students in the future
GISP – A Student Perspective

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Future Direction

- Exam Maintenance & Updating
- GISP Certification Specializations
- International Growth
- Benefit to Member Organizations
- Increased participation - 20,000 GISP by 2024?
Member Organizations

- NSGIC
- URISA
- gita (Geospatial Information & Technology Association)
- GIS Certification Institute
- UCGIS (University Consortium for Geographic Information Science)
- AAG (Association of American Geographers)
THANK YOU!

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www.gisci.org