GIS Certification:

The GISP Certification & others

Terminology

- **Certification**: a voluntary evaluation and acknowledgment of skills in a profession. Designed to recognize expertise.
- **Licensure**: a legal regulation, requiring competency in a practice. Designed to guard against incompetence.
- **Certificate**: An award given to an individual recognizing completion of an academic or training program.

Certification

- Vendor/Software Based
  - Esri
  - Microsoft
  - Autodesk
  - QGIS (underdevelopment)
- Professional Based
  - GISCI
  - ASPRS
  - IAAO
- License from State

Vendor Based

- Requirements
  - Usually no minimum time requirement
  - Platform specific
  - Exam based
- Benefits
  - Shows skill level using specific platform
  - Easier for employer to know skill level
  - Quick way to build resume as you get started

Professional Based

- Requirements
  - Usually have a minimum time requirement
  - Theory and Overall knowledge base
  - Can include Exam in addition to other requirements
  - Normally includes code of ethics and rules of behavior
  - Requires Continuing Education to maintain
- Benefits
  - Shows high level of overall knowledge and experience
  - Shows dedication to profession
  - Establishes you as a leader in your field

Why Certification?

- Advance GIS as a Profession
- Support employment & business needs
- Ensure core competency of ethics, experience, education & contributions

Why would you want Certification?

- Professional recognition by from other GIS Pros and other Professionals
- Greater earning potential
  - 41.2% with GISP make over $70,000 per year compared to 20.9% without GISP
  - Average Salary for GISP – $68,954
  - Average Salary without GISP – $56,062
- Personal Professional & Technical Development

Most well known GIS related certifications

Certification	2015	2014	2013
GISP	92%	89%	81%
Esri Technical	83%	82%	76%
Certified GIS/LIS Technologist (ASPRS)	20%	25%	18%
CMS (ASPRS)	14%	11%	9%
CP (ASPRS)	8%	10%	8%
Other	5%	7%	7%
Never heard of one	5%	5%	8%

GIS Certification Survey

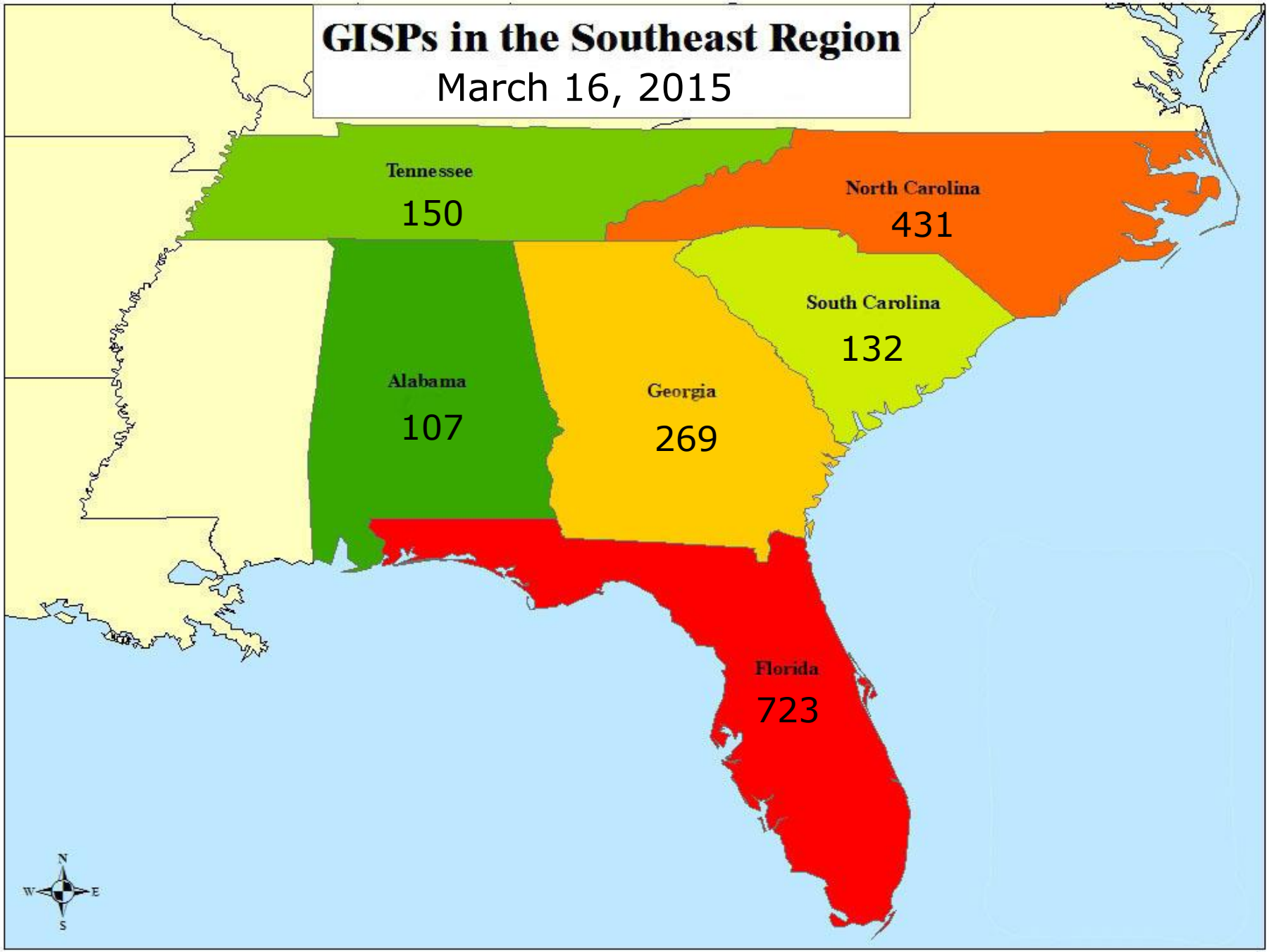
- When hiring does your organization consider certification a plus?

	2015	2014
Yes	32%	30%
No	37%	38%
Not Sure	32%	32%

What is GISP?

- GIS Certified Professional
  - Managed by GIS Certification Institute
    - URISA, AAG, NSGIC, UCGIS, GITA, GLIS
  - First GISPs certified in 2003
    - URISA lead in developing
    - Georgia was used as Pilot
  - GISCI was formed in 2004
  - Currently portfolio based
  - Big changes starting in July 2015

7,880 GISP in US as of March 16, 2015


GISPs in the Southeast Region
March 16, 2015
Tennessee
150
North Carolina
431
South Carolina
132
Alabama
107
Georgia
269
Florida
723
N
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S

How do I get my GISP???

Current Portfolio System

- 4 years of full time equivalent experience
- 150 Points in three areas
  - Education
  - Experience
  - Professional Contributions
- Code of Ethics and Rules of Conduct

4-year FTE Minimum

- Applicants must have the equivalent of 4 years (48 months total) of full time professional GIS experience to apply for GIS Certification.
- If the applicant has met the minimum requirement with less then 4 years of experience then the applicant must wait until 4 years of professional GIS experience is accrued.

Minimum Category Points

Educational Achievement	30 points
Professional Experience	60 points
Contributions to the Profession	8 points
Additional Points (Flexible):	52 points
Total =	**150 points**

Test coming after July 1

Benchmark

- **EDUCATION** – Bachelor's degree with some GIS courses (or equivalent)
- **EXPERIENCE** – Four years in GIS application or data development (or equivalent)
- **CONTRIBUTIONS** – Annual membership and modest participation in a GIS professional association (or equivalent)

Education Points

- Degree or Certificate
  - 25 Pts Masters or PhD
  - 20 Pts Bachelors
  - 10 Pts Associates
  - 5 Pts Certificate (400 or more hours)
- GIS Related Classes taken to get Degree
  - (Credit Hours x No. Weeks x 3)/40
- Continuing Education classes
  - Hours in class/40
- Professional Conferences
  - .1 Pt per day of conference attended

Experience Points – Three Tiers

- **Tier I: Analyst, System Design, Programming – 25 Pts per year** Typical tasks include database design or management, documentation or analysis of functional requirements, application design and evaluation, implementation management, and system administration.
- **Tier II: Data Compilation, Data Maintenance, Teaching – 15 Pts per year**: Typical tasks include editing data, map composition, report generation, database maintenance, data validation, instructional training, and teaching.
- **Tier III: GIS User – 10 Pts per year**: 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.

The Professional Experience Point Schedule Breakdown

EXP: EXPERIENCE POINT SCHEDULE

Base Experience Levels	Points per FTE year
Tier I: GIS Analysis, System Design, Data Development, Programming Typical tasks include: • 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 Reference "GIS System Analyst/Programmer" and "GIS Analyst," *Model Job Descriptions for GIS Professionals.*	**25 pts**
Tier II: Data Compilation, Data Maintenance, Map Composition, Teaching Typical tasks include • 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 • 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 Reference "GIS Technician" and "GIS Specialist," *Model Job Descriptions for GIS Professionals.*	**15 pts**
Tier III: GIS User Typical tasks include • 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 Reference "GIS User," *Model Job Descriptions for GIS Professionals.*	**10 pts**

Supervisory Bonus

- **Bonus points** – 10 Pts per year
  - Designed for management level GIS professionals who work less and less with the technology.
  - Must also claim other GIS experience using concepts and software.
  - Cannot claim only the supervisory bonus.

Professional Contributions

- Activities outside normal job duties
- 8 Categories
  - Publications
  - Professional Organization Involvement
  - Workshop Instruction
  - Conference Participation
  - Awards
  - GIS Volunteer Efforts
  - Other

Some Common Contribution Points

- Membership in Professional Organization – 1 Pt per year
- Professional Organization Board Member – 4 Pts per year
- Conference Committee Member – 2 Pts per year
- Conference Presentation – 1 Pt per Conference per presentation
- Conference Poster Display – 1 Pt per Conference

Changes to GISP

- Accreditation by ISO
- Exam starting July 1, 2015
  - Still requires 4 years of experience
  - Still requires portfolio submittal
  - Will have 6 years to complete certification
- New Online application process
- New fee structure – July 1, 2015
  - Certification application fee: $100
  - Certification exam fee: $250
  - Certification portfolio review fee: $100
  - Annual renewal fee: $95
  - Recertification: every 3 years; no fee—covered by renewal fees

GISCI Geospatial Core Technical Knowledge Exam® Blueprint

Knowledge Area	Weight
Conceptual Foundations	12%
Cartography and Visualization	14%
GIS Design Aspects and Data Modeling	29%
GIS Analytical Methods	17%
Data Manipulation	15%
Geospatial Data	13%

Questions

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