



Jennifer L Whytlaw, PhD, Associate Professor, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA

Year of Initial GISP Certification: 2012

Education/Other professional licenses

- PhD, Hazards and GIS, 2018
- MS, Geographic and Cartographic Sciences, 2009
- BA, Environmental Policy & Political Science, 2004

Professional Experience:

- Associate Professor, Old Dominion University, Dept of Political Science, Geography, and International Studies, Norfolk, Virginia, July 25, 2025 – Present
- Assistant Professor, Old Dominion University, 2019 – 2025
- Senior Research Specialist, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 2009 – 2019
- GIS Analyst, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), Chantilly, Virginia, 2007 – 2009
- Environmental Analyst, Tetra Tech Environmental Management Inc. (EMI), Reston, Virginia, 2006 – 2007
- Environmental Field Technician, Clendenin Environmental & Geotechnic Consultants, Leesburg, Virginia, 2005 – 2006

Professional Organizations/Activities:

- SEDAAG State Representative for Virginia – Spring 2023-November 2024
- Women+ in Geospatial, EMPOWER Lead (2021-2022), Steering Committee Member, December 2019-present
- Virginia Geographic Alliance (VGA) – active steering committee member 2020 – present
- Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU) – faculty member 2019 - present
- American Association of Geographers (AAG), Specialty groups: Geographic Information Science and Systems; Hazards, Risks, and Disasters; Human Dimensions of Global Change; Spatial Analysis and Modeling; Urban Geography
- Women in GIS, Member 2019-2020
- United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation (USGIF), Individual Member (2016-2018)

- New Jersey Geospatial Forum (NJGF), Chair (2014-2016), Education Representative for the Executive Committee (2013-2016), Member 2009-2019
- Mid-Atlantic Chapter of URISA (MAC URISA), Member 2010-2019, Co-Chair of 2014 Conference, Conference Volunteer for 2018 Conference as lead for Poster submissions

Statement of Interest:

As a GISP since 2012, I understand the value and importance of the GISP certification. I have been dedicated to upholding the standards of the GISP and promoting the ethical and professional conduct of GIS professionals to students and the profession. I would be excited to contribute my time and expertise to further enhance the GISCI's reputation and influence within the geospatial community.

Throughout my career, I have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in geospatial technology and have actively sought opportunities to expand my own knowledge and expertise. It is through my own experiences and applications of the technology that I have been able to share my love of GIS with undergraduate and graduate students as a current Associate Professor of Applied GIS at Old Dominion University. In this role, I have advised and mentored students as they progress through their studies and go on to future employment opportunities or advanced degrees, including through participation in research or by completing recommendation letters well beyond their time at ODU.

I am also an active advocate for GIS technology introduction and use at the K-12 level applying for several education grants to develop programs for integrated use of GIS within the science standards teachers are required to meet. I have participated in several STEM fairs at the middle school and elementary school levels, speaking with students about GIS and the different jobs available.

In 2019, I had the unique opportunity of joining an up-and-coming network of individuals working in the geospatial industry, called the Women+ in Geospatial network. What began through social media connections has since become a network of thousands of GIS users around the world connected with the core missions of inspiring, uniting, and empowering women and underrepresented genders in the geospatial field. As part of this group, I helped co-organize the first mentorship program offered through the network, and continued volunteering as a steering committee member within other areas to build the network, becoming the first EMPOWER lead in 2021 and 2022. In this role, I helped outline and document what the leadership role should look like for outreach and engagement activities of the network. These included education and training, mentorship, and review of resume materials as members requested.

As one focus area of my participation as a GISCI board member, I would like to enhance GISCI's outreach and engagement with student-focused programs such as mentorship programs and online resources targeted toward all types of colleges and universities, ensuring the future sustainability of the GIS profession. A second focus area would be continuing the integration of new and emerging geospatial technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and XR technologies, into the GISCI's certification process to ensure relevance and preparedness for the future of GIS. Thank you for considering my nomination.