

Policy on Recognition of GISP-AP Credential Holders from the Geospatial Council of Australia (GCA)

Effective Date: December 4, 2025

Approved By: GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) Board of Directors

Purpose

The GIS Certification Institute (GISCI) recognizes the achievements of geospatial professionals who earned the GIS Professional – Asia Pacific (GISP-AP) credential through the former Geospatial Council of Australia (GCA). In acknowledgment of the shared standards and alignment between the GISP-AP and GISCI's GISP® certification programs, GISCI will offer an opportunity for GISP-AP credential holders to obtain the GISCI Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP®) certification.

Background

The GISP-AP certification program, administered by the Geospatial Council of Australia (GCA), was developed using the existing GISCI GISP® program standards as its foundation. Following the dissolution of the GCA in August 2025, GISCI seeks to preserve the professional recognition earned by those who achieved the GISP-AP designation.

Policy

- **Eligibility:** Individuals who earned the GISP-AP credential through the Geospatial Council of Australia and who remain in good standing as of August 2025 are eligible to transfer their credential to GISCI.
- **Certification Transfer:** Eligible GISP-AP holders may apply to receive the GISP® credential from GISCI at no cost. This one-time transfer recognizes their prior certification under standards equivalent to those of the GISCI GISP® program.
- **Ongoing Requirements:** After transfer, all GISP-AP transferees will be subject to GISCI's existing recertification standards, timelines, and requirements, including payment of any applicable recertification fees at the time of renewal.
- **Verification:** GISCI reserves the right to verify GISP-AP credentials and standing through available documentation or references before approving the transfer.
- **Expiration and Recertification:** Transferred GISP®'s will follow GISCI's established three-year recertification cycle, beginning from the date of acceptance into the GISCI program.

Rationale

This policy ensures continuity and professional recognition for geospatial practitioners affected by the closure of the Geospatial Council of Australia. Because the GISP-AP program was based on the established GISCI GISP® framework, this transfer maintains the integrity and equivalence of certification standards while supporting the global geospatial community.

Application Process

1. Prepare Documentation

Applicants should gather the following:

- Proof of GISP-AP certification (e.g., certificate copy, letter of confirmation, or digital credential record).
- Identification matching the name on the credential.
- Contact information (email, phone number, mailing address).

2. Submit Request

Send the documentation and a request for conversion to info@gisci.org with the subject line: **“GISP-AP to GISCI GISP® Conversion Request.”** Anyone wishing to transfer their GIS-AP certification to the GISP® must submit for the transfer on or before July 1, 2026.

3. GISCI Review and Verification

- GISCI staff will review the submission and verify credential authenticity.
- Additional information may be requested if verification cannot be completed with materials provided.
- Verification may include cross-checking with available GCA archives or references.

4. Approval and Confirmation

- Once verified, applicants will be informed to create an account at GISCI if they do not already have one.
- GISCI will issue a digital *GISP®* certificate and credential to the applicant at **no cost**.
- The new GISP® credential will be considered effective as of the date of approval.

5. Recertification Requirements

- Converted GISP®s will enter the standard **three-year recertification cycle** under current GISCI recertification policies.
- Standard **recertification fees** will apply at the time of renewal.