**Please read through the description and responsibilities, not just the job title.**

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| https://www.surveymonkey.com/i/t.gifWhich one of the following job titles most closely describes your current position? Please read through the description and responsibilities, not just the job title.   Director of Geographic Information Systems/Geographic Information Officer (GIO) -GIS Directors are often found in many large public sector governments. The position heads the GIS department or the individuals assigned to GIS projects. All GIS personnel including technicians, analysts, programmers, managers, etc. fall under the supervision and direction of the GIO. Directors most often need a Master’s degree and extensive GIS and managerial training. Upon hiring, the average GIS Director will have 7 plus years of experience, including software applications and project management.https://www.surveymonkey.com/i/t.gifGIS Manager - The GIS Manager balances technical skills and administrative knowledge to ensure that GIS technology is being used properly and efficiently. The GIS Manager must be informed as to what the current GIS demands are, and if the present department, personnel, and software can meet them. A working knowledge of the agency’s database and software is required of the successful manager. As in most technical fields, a capable manager must know more than project oversight and staff supervision, and a technical background is a necessity. The manager must have the skills and abilities to ensure a project’s completion from beginning to end. Successful managers need to set goals and objectives, project completion dates, and establish methods of completion, on a number of ongoing projects. Project management can often be a daunting task, requiring individuals who are detail oriented and have foresight. The GIS Manager must also be prepared to coordinate GIS activities between different groups, agencies, departments, or individuals.https://www.surveymonkey.com/i/t.gifGIS Coordinator - The coordinator lies just below the manager on the hierarchy of GIS professionals. They provide technical support to other agencies, individuals, and governments. It is the responsibility of the coordinator to aid both GIS users and non-users in the development and application of geographical technology. The coordinator must have an extensive working knowledge of the department’s software and capabilities. The coordinator handles all the data sharing, report and map generation, as well as meeting planning, between departments. Other departments and levels of government are relying on GIS technology in increasing amounts, and it is the responsibility of the coordinator to provide the correct information and assistance.https://www.surveymonkey.com/i/t.gifGIS Specialist - In some cases, specialists are individuals with specific and intense training in one aspect of GIS technology. In other cases, the title may be applied to individuals who handle certain ongoing projects related to the department. Larger public and private agencies offer the position as a way to concentrate on specific and vital projects. The specialist, often in a team environment, provides customer and technical support under the direction of a GIS Manager. Where the position differs from that of the coordinator is that most of a specialist’s duties are internal. The specialist shares in project development rather than collaboration with other agencies or governments. Some specialists have a less formal GIS background and are hired due to their knowledge of a specific subject or function. For example, if the department is working on a transportation project, the specialist might have a concentrated background in planning or highway development, rather than GIS. The specialist helps send projects through the pipeline, coordinating the activities of the department with the goals and directives of an individual project.https://www.surveymonkey.com/i/t.gifGIS Programmer - The GIS Programmer is a heavily technical position that demands an extensive technical background and a constant need for reeducation. Almost every programmer designs, creates, updates, or manages GIS software applications. A programmer divides one’s time between the maintenance of the current software and design of new applications. The programmer may also be called upon to do GIS mapping, provide internet and web based support, develop spatial and non-spatial databases, as well as provide technical support to other GIS professionals. The programmer is expected to know a large number of programming languages and applications. On average, familiarity with C, C++, Java, Python, .NET, Flex, Silverlight is required. The qualified and successful programmer will not only be familiar with these applications, but will be able to use them to run and improve the current GIS program.https://www.surveymonkey.com/i/t.gifGIS Analyst - The GIS Analyst’s responsibilities are often two-fold. The first aspect of the analyst position concentrates on data and programming knowledge. The position demands proficiency with mapping and database software. The analyst must be familiar with database derived information, for it will be from this that the second aspect of the position comes into play: data analysis. The analyst’s duties include a high amount of data conversion, application, and implementation. It is the role of the analyst to transfer data from a database with certain parameters and to ultimately prepare reports or make decisions from this created information. The analyst makes practical sense out of processed data and then applies it to real world applications.https://www.surveymonkey.com/i/t.gifGIS Technician - Most of the duties assigned to the GIS Technician are routine, involving heavy amounts of database entry and management and the eventual generation of maps and plats from this data. The technician does little or no interpretation after the data has been stored in the database software. Outside the main responsibilities of database management and mapping, the technician will also complete work relating to: digitizing, math, surveying, and technical writing. If any position in GIS were designed for the recent college graduate or novice in the field it would be the position of technician.https://www.surveymonkey.com/i/t.gifUser of GIS (heavy) - “Heavy” users of GIS technology are technically not in a GIS or related department, but use the system’s software and applications frequently. The heavy GIS user could use the system as often as once a day and on a wide variety of projects. Most often, the heavy user works with GIS a few times a week. These individuals can come from backgrounds in planning, engineering, assessment, public works, etc. The heavy user will be able to get around the GIS and have a basic knowledge of shortcuts, commands, and specific applications. The heavy user often acquires his or her skills from extensive training and repeated use. |