

ASPRS CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION GUIDELINES



Applicant has contributed and participated in activities of service to the profession and community (see list below)	See items 1 – 10 listed below for PDH Credits	20 PDH Credits	Document Titles with Referencing
Published Papers and/or professional manuals (see list below)	See items 11-13 listed below for PDH credits	20 PDH Credits	Document time spent, titles with full referencing
Applicant has attended workshops/classes or instructed in directly related subjects	1 PDH per hour attended (0.1 CEU = 1 PDH)	50 PDH (or 5 CEU)	Document Course, Titles, and Date
Applicant has attended technical conferences and other professional meetings sponsored by ASPRS, ISPRS, SPIE, and other appropriate professional organizations.	1 PDH per hour of technical session attendance	40 PDH	Document Meeting Titles and Dates
Applicant has actively served on ASPRS Committees. Officer, Division Chair, Region Officer, Chapter Officer, or related support.	5 PDH Credits per Year. See list below for PDH Credits	25 PDH Credits	Document Activity and Dates

The following are the maximum allowable ASPRS PDH Credits for those activities that may be used for recertification
(PDH credits during the past 5 years)

(1)	Holding office [e.g., committee chair, vice chair, secretary, board trustee]	5
(2)	Committee Member	3
(3)	Meeting/Conference Chair or Vice Chair	10

(4)	Session Moderator at Technical Conference	5
(5)	Author or co-author of a conference technical paper, poster session paper or panel session	3
(6)	Adjunct teaching a formal class in an academic setting [when not applicant's primary occupation] (maximum of 5 PDH credits per year)	10
(7)	Workshop Instructor (2 PDH credits per course for a maximum of 4 credits per year)	12
(8)	Examination Committee Contributor (2 PDH credits per instance for a maximum of 5 per year)	10
(9)	ASPRS Certification exam proctor/panel (2 PDH credits per instance for a maximum of 4 per year)	8
(10)	Community/Career extracurricular, i.e., <i>pro bono</i> involvement (geomatics-related), e.g., Public Agency (geospatial) Advisory Board, Citizens Advisory Group, (5 PDH credits per activity)	10

(11)	Author/editor of published geospatial-related book	15
(12)	Author (not prime) of one or more chapters of a published geospatial-related book	5
(13)	Author/Co-author of a peer-reviewed, published paper (5 PDH credits per paper)	20

The application must be specific with clear documentation (activity and date[s]) so the Evaluation for Certification Committee can properly evaluate applicant's activities. The application and the references are the only criteria needed for recertification. (Applicant may be asked by the Committee to submit additional information or phone interview).

Inactive/Retired Certified Professionals

Certified Professionals who do not become *recertified* are automatically placed in either Inactive or *Retired* status. Individuals in either category are not permitted to use their seal to sign plans or otherwise indicate in any way that they are active Certified Professionals. An [online searchable list](#) of all active Certified Professionals in each category is maintained.

NOTE: Individuals whose Certified status is Inactive or Retired for a period longer than one (1) year following Active status may apply for recertification provided that, in addition to the standard recertification criteria (outlined above), they take and pass the examination in their respective certification area.

Educational credits, Technologists

An Associate, or higher education degree can be counted as one-half year towards total time.

Technologist Recertification Requirements

To maintain active certification, all Certified Technologists must apply for recertification every three (3) years.

Technologist Recertification Criteria

Technologist Recertification is based upon the same PDH requirements as described in the Professional Recertification Guidelines, although the requirements are for the applicant's professional and personal involvement in the LAST THREE (3) YEARS, and each applicant must have completed and documented sixty (60) PDHs or PDH Credits. For continuous work experience in the certified field, applicants can claim 30 PDH credits (10 per year).

Recertification applicants are required to fill out the Recertification Application to show the type and duration of activity that they have practiced and their professional involvement in the mapping sciences. They must also have Four References who have knowledge of the applicant's professional and personal involvement in the LAST THREE (3) YEARS.

The application must be specific with clear documentation (activity and date[s]) so the Evaluation for Certification Committee can properly evaluate applicant's activities. The application and the references are the only criteria needed for recertification. (Applicant may be asked by the Committee to submit additional information or phone interview).

Geospatial Intern Program

An applicant seeking Geospatial Intern recognition must have educational training in the spatial sciences from an approved institution of higher education and must follow the Basic Requirements as previously outlined for Certified Photogrammetrist, Mapping Scientist, or Technologist; the exception being the required on-job experience. Applicants must submit the appropriate [Application](#) and Fee with one (1) reference (which the ASPRS office will request after application is submitted) from their academic advisor or relevant faculty member. An Official Copy of the applicant's transcript must accompany the application; the transcript must validate that the applicant has successfully completed a minimum of twelve (12) credits in the geospatial sciences. The application requires a declaration of compliance with the ASPRS Code of Ethics.

Applications, fees, and the reference will be submitted to ASPRS Headquarters for consideration by the appropriate peer review committee. Applicants will be notified following peer review, and individuals passing peer review will be given the opportunity to take the appropriate examination within six (6) months following their notification date. Examinations will be administered in a proctor-controlled environment.

Upon successful examination completion, the individual will receive Intern-level recognition

Costs

ASPRS Certification Application Fees (all fees in US dollars)

<i>Type of Application</i>	<i>ASPRS Members</i>	<i>Non-Members</i>
Initial Certification	\$300	\$450
Recertification, Professional	\$200	\$350
Initial Certification, Technologist	\$200	\$350
Recertification, Technologist	\$125	\$275
Geospatial Intern	\$100	\$150

(NOTE: The fees charged defray administrative costs of the Certification Program. Fees are not refundable in the event of non-certification.)

Be prepared to furnish additional background information if requested by the Evaluation Committee.

Upon notification of approval by the Evaluation Committee, you must take a written examination within six months of approval.

Preparing for the examination

[Matrices](#) illustrating the mix of examination questions, by specialty area, have been prepared for applicant review. Please note that workshops on preparation for certification are offered via [webinar](#) and during most [ASPRS Conferences](#).

The purpose of the workshop is to prepare individuals who are planning to sit for the ASPRS Certification exams. The workshop begins by explaining the purpose and form of the exam. Key topical areas are identified which an applicant should be aware of prior to taking the exam. Basic concepts and sample questions are reviewed to show how these topics will be tested on the exam. Finally, the workshop identifies resources which examinees should be aware of to utilize in their preparation for the examination.

Workshop Topics:

- Purpose of the exam
- Photogrammetry
- Remote Sensing
- Geographic Information Systems
- Lidar, UAS
- Other topical areas of importance in preparation for the exam

Suggested Texts for Review:

- *The Manual of Photogrammetry, 6th edition, Chris McGlone, editor 2013*
- *Remote Sensing and Image Interpretation, 5th edition, Lillesand and Kiefer, 2015*
- *Elements of Photogrammetry: With Applications in GIS, Wolf and Dewitt, 1999*
- *The Manual of GIS, Marguerite Madden, editor, 2009*
- *Fundamentals of Remote Sensing and Airphoto Interpretation, 5th edition, Avery & Berlin, 1992*
- *Airborne Topographic Lidar Manual, Michael S. Renslow, editor, 2012*
- *Introduction to the Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Barnhart, Hottman, Marshall, Shappee, editors, 2012*
- *Introduction to UAV Systems (Aerospace Series) 4th edition, Fahlstrom and Gleason, 2012*
- *Glossary of the Mapping Sciences, ASPRS and ASCE*

Administrative Procedures

The structure for administering the ASPRS Certification Program consists of two major elements:

1. *The Evaluation for Certification Committee*, which reviews, then approves, or rejects all applications for Certification, Recertification, or Geospatial Intern
2. *The ASPRS Governance Committee*, which investigates allegations and complaints involving practicing photogrammetrists, mapping scientists, and technologists and recommends appropriate action to the Board of Directors.

The Society's **Professional Practice Division** monitors and develops policy guidelines for the program. *The Board of Directors is the final authority on matters involving certification and professional conduct.*

Examination Proctoring:

All exams are sent certified mail and pre-packaged to be sent back to the office certified mail. We are currently transitioning our test administration to be provided in a secure computer based testing environment.

Proctors must:

- Provide office with proper mailing address and phone number
- Arrange for a suitable examination site. A room of ample size, free of distractions, with a separate table and adequate lighting is desirable. Rest room facilities should be available.
- Schedule the exam once the exam packet is in hand, as there are various factors that may delay delivery of the exam packet.
- Not open the sealed exam documentation until the time of examination. Completed examinations are to be returned using the shipping packaging and shipping label provided as soon as possible after the exam is administered.
- Obtain picture identification of the examinee before the exam.
- Be sure to check off all of the requirements shown on the Cover Page of the Exam: exam security and preserving the integrity of the exam and process are essential.

APPLICANT'S NAME: _____

DATE EXAMINATION TAKEN: _____

VERIFICATION OF APPLICANT'S PHOTO ID: YES _____
NO _____

PROCTOR'S NAME: _____

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- Check that Candidates have only one bound reference, a hand-held calculator, a writing device, scratch paper, and nothing else.
- Ensure that the examination will last no longer than 2 hours for Certified Mapping Technologist exams and no longer than 4 hours for Certified Mapping Scientist (including Certified Photogrammetrist) exams. Please assure that this time period is honored with the exception for rest room breaks.

Applications for certification and recertification will, upon receipt at ASPRS Headquarters, be reviewed for completeness. When the required references have submitted Confidential Reference Forms, they are combined with the application. Applications found to be in order are sent to the Chair of the Evaluation Committee, whose membership includes representation from each major functional area of photogrammetry and the mapping sciences. The Committee will meet as required to take action on all bona fide applications.

Applicants for certification, recertification, and geospatial intern will be notified of action by the Committee as soon as possible.

Award of certification, recertification and Geospatial Intern status

Successful applicants for certification will be awarded an embossed certificate. Those certified by the Society may display the certificate and use one (or more as appropriate) of the following designations on business stationary and cards:

- Certified Photogrammetrist (ASPRS)
- Certified Mapping Scientist, Remote Sensing (ASPRS)
- Certified Mapping Scientist, GIS/LIS (ASPRS)
- Certified Mapping Scientist, Lidar (ASPRS)
- Certified Mapping Scientist, UAS (ASPRS)
- Certified Photogrammetric Technologist (ASPRS)
- Certified Remote Sensing Technologist (ASPRS)
- Certified GIS/LIS Technologist (ASPRS)
- Certified Lidar Technologist (ASPRS)
- Certified UAS Technologist (ASPRS)
- Geospatial Intern (ASPRS)

Successful applicants for recertification will continue to be listed on the [Active Certified Roll](#) and will be awarded a certificate to show that the applicant has maintained skills in the technology.

Seals and stamps

A seal and/or rubber stamp, in standard or digital format, which contains the name, certification number and expiration date may be [ordered](#) from ASPRS by email or surface mail. There is a nominal fee for each.

Certification and recertification are for individuals only. The designation of "Certified" may not be used in such a manner as to indicate that a business firm or agency is certified as an entity.

The use of a seal or stamp is not authorized for those individuals holding the status of "Intern" or by those whose status has become "Inactive" or "Retired."

Note: ASPRS certification seals and stamps can only be authorized by ASPRS and manufactured by ASPRS-approved vendors. Unauthorized seal or stamp production is a violation of copyright law and the ASPRS Code of Ethics.

Reservations

The Society reserves the right to change or amend the requirements for certification and recertification, the educational credits, or the administrative fee structure for review and evaluation if deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

The Society further reserves the right to revoke a certification or recertification if, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, the person concerned has violated or shown flagrant disregard for the [Code of Ethics](#) of the Society.

Since the program is entirely voluntary, the Society assumes no responsibility for any loss or disadvantage, real or imagined, which may be alleged to have resulted from a disapproval of an application for certification, recertification, or revocation of the certificate once given.

By submitting their application, the applicant acknowledges that the Society will apply the internal standards adopted by its Board of Directors in evaluating the applicant, and that it may reject any applicant who does not meet its minimum standards for certification or recertification. In consideration of ASPRS acceptance and processing of an application, the applicant agrees to waive all claims of liability or responsibility against ASPRS and to indemnify and hold harmless ASPRS, its directors, officers, committee members, employees, agents and representatives against any and all such injury, damages, or claims made by or on behalf of any person, partnership, association, or corporation. Applicant further acknowledges that ASPRS, its directors, officers, committee members, employees, agents or representatives are not liable to the applicant, or to any other person, partnership, association, or corporation, in any way for any injury, damages, or claims alleged to be based upon or arising out of the approval or disapproval or the issuance, withdrawal, or termination of any certification or recertification issued by ASPRS.

Certification Examination Matrices by Certification Discipline

*Approximate percentages, actual values may vary.

Focus Area	Certified Photogrammetrist	Certified Mapping Scientist GIS/LIS	Certified Mapping Scientist Remote Sensing	Certified Mapping Scientist Lidar	Certified Mapping Scientist UAS
Math/Science	13-15%	14-16%	14-16%	10-16%	10-16%
Engineering/Surveying	6-7%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%
Physics	9-11%	7-9%	9-10%	9-10%	9-10%
Imaging	12-15%	18-20%	25-28%	12-15%	12-15%
Photogrammetry	25-27%	10-13%	10-14%	10-15%	10-15%
GIS	12-15%	21-23%	12-15%	10-15%	10-15%
Lidar	4-6%	4-6%	4-6%	25-30%	25-30%
Ethics/General	15%	15%	15%	15%	4-6%
UAS	0%	0%	0%	0%	25-30%

<i>Focus Area</i>	Certified Mapping Technologist Photogrammetry	Certified Mapping Technologist GIS/LIS	Certified Mapping Technologist Remote Sensing	Certified Mapping Technologist Lidar	Certified Mapping Technologist UAS
Mathematics	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Earth Science	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Basic Surveying	10%	10%	10%	6%	6%
Physics	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Standards	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%
Aerial Photography	12%	12%	12%	6%	6%
Practice Issues	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Photogrammetry	34%	6%	12%	6%	6%
Image Processing/ Remote Sensing	8%	10%	30%	10%	10%
GIS/LIS	4%	30%	4%	4%	4%
Lidar	4%	6%	6%	34%	4%
UAS	0%	0%	0%	0%	32 %