

Training Curriculum – First Three Years: Geographic Information Specialist

The following list is a recommended progression of official trainings grouped within broad career advancement stages. Courses are listed within recommended career timeframes, to which there is no requirement implied, simply a guide to supervisory expectations of job duty skill acquisition with experience.

Elective courses are highly recommended, but not required within the curriculum. Nor are electives limited to those courses listed on this curriculum -- individuals are encouraged to tailor their trainings to fit their needs.

Offerings are not restricted to the level in which they occur and should not be used as a means of determining promotion eligibility.

These curricula do not in any way reflect the training necessary to fulfill the requirements for specific OPM job series, nor do they serve in any way to change the existing OPM-defined requirements for the specific job series.

You may omit courses that you have already taken as Soil Science or Ecological Sciences training.

***All course titles listed as being offered by the ESRI Academy can be substituted by a ESRI class with similar content due to course titles being updated by ESRI.**

Beginner

CORE COURSES

Year 1

- Basics of Geographic Coordinate Systems (ESRI Academy)
- Basics of Map Projection (ESRI Academy)
- Displaying Data in ArcGIS Pro (ESRI Academy)
- Getting Started with the Geodatabase (ESRI Academy)
- Getting Started with Cartographic Representations (ESRI Academy)
- Labelling Features with ArcGIS Pro (ESRI Academy)
- Managing Map Layers in ArcGIS Pro (ESRI Academy)
- Editing 3D Features Using ArcGIS Pro (ESRI Academy)
- Soil survey overview and Geomorphology Field Training (OJT with MLRA Soil Scientists)
- Basic Soil Survey – Field and Lab (NRCS-NEDC-000012)
- Introduction to ArcGIS Pro for GIS Professionals (ESRI Academy)
- Conservation Planning, Part 1 (NRCS-NEDC-000019)*
- Introduction to Field Office Technical Guide (NRCS-NEDC-000149)*
- Planning a Cartography Project (ESRI Academy)

Years 2-3

- Digital Soil Survey Data Editing (NRCS-NEDC-000250)
- Digital Soil Survey Management (NRCS-NEDC-000251)
- Introduction to Image Interpretation (NRCS-NEDC-000275)

- NASIS Basic (Guides)
- Spatial Analysis Workshop (NRCS-NEDC-000271)
- Statistics for Soil Survey, Part 1 (NRCS-NEDC-000400) (prerequisite for Intro to DSM)
- Introduction to Digital Soil Mapping (NRCS-NEDC)
- Map design Fundamentals (ESRI Academy)
- Python for Everyone (ESRI Academy)
- Introduction to Geoprocessing Scripts using Python (ESRI Academy)
- Cultural Resources Training Series, Part 1 (NRCS-NEDC-000141)
- Basic Soils & Web Soil Survey to Interpret Land Capabilities & Limitations (OJT/State/National) (NRCS-NHQ-000009)
- Environmental Evaluation Webinar Series no. 1: Primer on NRCS Environmental Compliance (NRCS-NHQ-000011)
- Environmental Evaluation Webinar Series no. 2: Documenting the Environmental Evaluation (NRCS-NHQ-000012)

RECOMMENDED ELECTIVE COURSES

Agency Knowledge

- Basic Field Conservation Orientation (Detail in field service center for 2-3 weeks)
- Introduction to the Field Office Technical Guide (NRCS-NEDC-000149)
- NRCS Mentor and Protégé Training (NRCS-NEDC-LOCAL-000003)
- Orientation for New Employees (NRCS-NEDC-000013)

Basic Skills

- How to Use DigiTop (National Agricultural Library interface)
- MS Excel Series (AgLearn Web-based learning)

Work Life

- Emotional Intelligence 2.0 (Audio book USDA-BOOK-49926)
- What is Emotional Intelligence? (AgLearn Web-based learning)
- 100 ways to Motivate Yourself (AgLearn Web-based learning)