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GIS In the News

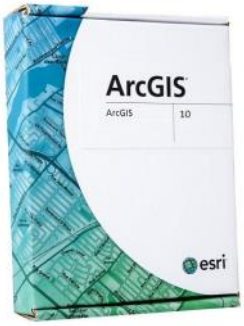
Turning Good Ideas into Solutions!

ESRI Virtual Campus Offers Lots of Training Opportunities

The City of Salisbury, NC is fortunate to have an ESRI Small Government Enterprise License Agreement (ELA). Having an ELA means that City employees have access to ArcGIS software and extensions, to ArcGIS Online, and to training via the ESRI Virtual Campus environment.

One hundred (100!) courses are offered through the ESRI Virtual Campus Annual User License. This license allows for training dollars to be shared across the organization, so that ***anyone*** may have access to training courses and learn how to leverage GIS in their day to day activities.

It might be a little overwhelming to look at a list of one hundred courses and try to figure out what would be best to take. So, I have provided some suggestions for you. Course descriptions were obtained from the ESRI online course catalog.



Understanding the basics...

GIS uses lots of different terminology, and sometimes that can make the topic a little overwhelming. I suggest that you begin with some of the "basics" classes.

Getting Started with GIS is a great place to begin. This course provides a foundation for understanding what a geographic information system is and the possibilities it offers for discovering patterns, relationships, and trends.

Continue to build upon your foundation in GIS with Learning ArcGIS Desktop. It introduces you to the fundamental concepts of GIS and helps you understand how ArcGIS Desktop software functions.

Basics of Geographic Coordinate Systems is another important course. It helps you understand the question *How do you accurately represent the location of features found on the earth's three-dimensional surface on a two-dimensional piece of paper or computer screen?* And, you'll get the chance to learn some of the history behind the development of coordinate systems.

Basics of Map Projections is another key course. The map projection you choose may already be established for you by your organization, or you may have to choose the map projection you need to support a specific purpose for a given map or project.

Top Five Benefits of GIS

⇒ Cost Savings & Increased Efficiency

⇒ Better Decision Making

⇒ Improved Communication

⇒ Better Recordkeeping

⇒ Managing Geographically

esri
Understanding our world.

Quick & Easy Courses

⇒ The 15 Minute Map

⇒ Understanding GIS Queries

⇒ Using ArcCatalog: Tops & Tricks

⇒ Address Geocoding with ArcGIS 10.1

Source: ESRI.com

GIS data is available in points, lines, and polygons, but it also comes in another format—raster. In the course Basics of Raster Data you will explore the structure of raster data, learn about different raster formats and why raster data is preferred for certain GIS operations, and how to choose the appropriate type of raster data for a given application.

Metadata, the key information that documents a dataset, has emerged as a powerful tool for safeguarding an organization's investment in spatial data. Documenting datasets allows people to efficiently find them, evaluate their usefulness for a particular project, and share them with others. Creating and Maintaining Metadata shows how metadata supports efficient management and use of spatial data and teaches practical strategies for creating and maintaining metadata using ArcGIS Desktop software.

Beyond the Basics...

Once you have mastered the basics, there are still a number of GIS courses available to you so that you can expand your knowledge of GIS and how it may assist you in your day to day operations.

In addition to pretty maps, GIS software and applications provide powerful tools to uncover patterns, trends, and relationships that aren't obvious when looking at data in a tabular format. Solving Spatial Problems introduces a standard five-step approach to problem-solving using a GIS and geographic data.

Turning Data into Information is designed for those with a basic or intermediate knowledge of GIS who want to develop the skills associated with creating useful information from spatial data. This course is a companion to the book *Geographic Information Systems and Science, Third Edition*.

Editing in ArcGIS introduces new streamlined editing workflows, which provide a more intuitive experience and allow for quicker completion of data editing tasks. Note: Editing in the 9.x environment is a pre-requisite for this course.

Creating, Editing, and Managing Geodatabases covers all the basics and introduces the more advanced functionality that makes the geodatabase such a powerful data model. The geodatabase is the ESRI data model that allows features to be modeled more realistically than ever before.

Start learning today!

Interested in learning more about GIS and how you can use it? Contact GIS Coordinator Kathryn Clifton, GISP at 704-638-5246 or katclif@salisburync.gov today for more information about these and other online courses you may take **for free!**