

Geographic Profiling Analyst Training and Certification





What is the GPA standard, and where does it come from?

- The training program and certification standard for Geographic Profiling Analysts (GPAs) is drawn from the Geographic Profiling Understudy program adopted by the International Criminal Investigative Analysis Fellowship (ICIAF). It is a subset of that program.
- The GPA program was developed by a joint effort of the NIJ's National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) and Detective Inspector Kim Rossmo of the Vancouver Police Dept. (now Dr. Kim Rossmo of Texas State University), who helped develop the ICIAF Understudy program.



What is the purpose of having a GPA training and certification standard?

1. To ensure that the GPA designation is a meaningful professional certification.
2. To ensure that geographic profiling analysis remains a recognized and respected professional law enforcement tool.
3. To ensure quality of results to law enforcement through adequate qualification of GPAs and adherence to good scientific standards.
4. To establish an ethical code of conduct for GPAs.



What is the CGPATC?

- The Committee for GPA Training and Certification (CGPATC) is the body in charge of administering the GPA program and issuing GPA certification.
- It is composed of representatives from the ICIAF-certified geographic profilers, GPA course instructors, working GPAs, and the suppliers of software tools for GPAs.
- It includes international membership from the United States, Canada, and Europe.



What are the standards?

1. Only those who have passed an approved GPA course, completed the post-course certification process, and received certification by the CGPATC can call themselves Geographic Profiling Analysts (GPAs).
2. Only courses which include the minimum core curriculum and are taught by CGPATC-qualified instructors are considered approved GPA courses.

...



What are the standards? (cont.)

3. Only those actively practicing geographic profiling analysis in law enforcement or a related security/investigative field can be certified.
4. GPAs must commit to the CGPATC professional code of conduct in order to be certified, and must follow the code of conduct to remain certified.



Code of Conduct

1. GPAs will not act in a way which is likely to bring geographic profiling analysis into disrepute through lack of professionalism.
2. GPAs will not perform geographic profiling analysis on types of cases specifically identified as beyond their GPA training without calling in expert assistance from an ICIAF-qualified geographic profiler.

...



Code of Conduct (cont.)

3. GPAs will not interfere in active police cases outside their jurisdiction by performing or publishing geographic profiling analyses which are not solicited by the responsible police agency.
4. GPAs will not comment publicly on the use of geographic profiling with respect to active police cases outside their jurisdiction.
5. GPAs will not participate in geographic profiling research programs which have not been reviewed and approved by the CPGATC.