



The American Association for Geodetic Surveying

Scott P. Martin, PLS

AAGS 2025 Immediate Past President
California Geodetic Coordinator

American Association for Geodetic Surveying (AAGS)
Geodetic Surveying Certification examination
and other initiatives, plus
Geodetic Coordinator update

CSRC

Coordinating Council Meeting
May 15, 2025



Geodetic Surveying Certification examination

- AAGS has developed a pool of over 300 questions, which will be evaluated by select Beta testers
- Will be hosted by NSPS. Exam statistics will be provided to AAGS for analysis and adjustments
- Open to all. Licensure as a Land Surveyor not required
- Target is geodetic surveying proficiency, not geodesy
- Will potentially increase geodetic expertise across the geospatial sciences spectrum.



The American Association for Geodetic Surveying

Geodetic Surveying Certification examination

- After careful internal review and vetting, Beta testing will be begin. Scheduled for July, 2025
- Revisions will be made based on Beta tester feedback
- Exam will go live following that phase.
- NSPS will be doing Social Media promotion of the exam for AAGS to get the word out.



Geodetic Surveying Certification examination Example Questions

The primary purpose of a NGS Hybrid Geoid Height Model is to?

- a) Derive a NGVD29 orthometric height from a GPS/GNSS observed ellipsoid height.
- b) Derive a NAVD88 orthometric height from a GPS/GNSS observed NAD83 ellipsoid height based on a specific NAD83 realization.
- c) Derive a NAVD88 orthometric height using the most recent Hybrid Geoid height Model applied to any NAD83 observed ellipsoid height.
- d) Validate published NAVD88 leveled benchmark heights before subsequent use.



Geodetic Surveying Certification examination Example Questions

Datum tag and epoch date information is representative of?

- a) A specific reference system.
- b) Unimportant because the reference system never changes.
- c) A specific reference frame.
- d) The date the positions were published by the NGS.



Geodetic Surveying Certification examination Example Questions

A tidal benchmark has an elevation of 3.806 meters in the MHW datum. If the tidal datums at the tide station for the tidal benchmark are:

MHW=0.840 meters

NAVD88 = 0.560 meters

MLLW = 0.000 meters

Compute the elevation of the benchmark in the NAVD88 datum in meters.

- A. 4.086
- B. 2.406
- C. 4.366
- D. 4.646



The American Association for Geodetic Surveying

Other AAGS activities

- Establishing a YouTube channel to offer informational and training videos.
- Some content will be open to all and others will be in an AAGS members only area.
- Working with NSPS to develop a bulletin publication with content of interest to the working surveying community.
- Recently awarded scholarships to undergraduate and graduate level applicants in geodetic surveying programs
- Participated in the annual NSPS student competition held on the National Mall in Washington D.C.



Geodetic Coordinator Update

- Most inquiries are regarding resetting of marks imperiled by construction. Work closely with Dana Caccamise, NGS to address all Federal and State level concerns
- Some recent inquiries have been from firms unfamiliar with working in California and the importance of not mixing epoch dates on coordinates for control
- This may be a good topic for an AAGS YouTube video and questions on working in areas of tectonic plate movement will be included on the Geodetic Surveying Certification examination.