Zac Snyder

GIS Analyst | Spatial Analysis, Data Management & Cartography

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SUMMARY

GIS analyst with a master's degree in GIS and professional experience supporting energy-sector projects through spatial analysis, site suitability modeling, and geospatial data management. Experienced with ArcGIS Pro, raster and vector analysis, data quality control, and adapting ArcPy scripts to support GIS workflows. Comfortable working with complex datasets and communicating technical findings to different audiences.

EXPERIENCE

GIS Contractor | Gradient Geothermal *Oct 2025 - Present*

- Build site suitability models in ArcGIS Pro to identify locations that meet environmental, regulatory, and infrastructure requirements, supporting early site screening
- Compile, organize, and analyze geospatial datasets from public and project sources for spatial modeling and mapping
- Adapt, troubleshoot, and validate ArcPy scripts used to support GIS modeling and analysis
- Extract and organize data from historical records into structured datasets

GIS Intern | Gradient Geothermal *Jun 2025 - Aug 2025*

- Mapped and ranked datasets by county and state in ArcGIS Pro using filters and joins, and corrected the underlying data in Excel (20-30 hrs/week)
- Presented findings in PowerPoint to company leadership

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

8th Grade Science Teacher | Public School, Virginia Beach *Sep 2026 - Present*

- Lead 8th grade science classes in 90-minute blocks, explaining difficult ideas in plain language

Middle School Science Teacher | Private School, Virginia Beach *Aug 2024 - Aug 2026*

- Taught 6th through 8th grade science to students with learning differences, differentiating instruction and working with parents and other teachers

Water Analyst I, Organic Prep | Eurofins Environmental Testing *Feb 2024 - Jul 2024*

- Followed SOPs and EPA and Department of Defense standards while performing water sample extractions

Research Assistant | Metropolitan State University of Denver *Jan 2023 - Jan 2024*

- Supported coral reef ecology research, including chlorophyll-a fluorescence imaging and coral nursery maintenance
- Collected field data and documented sites during 20+ scientific dives in the Florida Keys Reef Tract

SELECTED PROJECTS

Trash-Be-Gone: Landfill Site Selection, Florida | M.S. capstone
Screened statewide parcels against road, population, slope, and rainfall criteria and delivered three candidate sites with maps and a report.

Pumpkin Creek Watershed, Oklahoma | M.S. coursework
Ran a full hydrology workflow from a USGS DEM, from flow direction to Strahler stream order and sub-watershed delineation.

Road Construction Cost Analysis, Duluth, Minnesota | M.S. coursework
Combined distance and slope into a construction cost surface that shows where new road connections cost the least.

Coral Bleaching Risk Model, Florida Keys | Independent research
Joined 4,537 site-year survey records to thermal stress, depth, and habitat layers and trained a random forest classifier, holding out 2019 to 2023 as a test set.

SKILLS

GIS
ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online (basic), Spatial Analyst, QGIS (introductory)

Analysis
Site suitability, overlays, interpolation (IDW, spline, kriging), hydrology, network analysis (closest facility, service area, routing)

Data
Geodatabases, coordinate systems, metadata (FGDC and ISO styles), attribute queries, data QC, Excel

Automation
Python / ArcPy (adapting scripts)

Communication
Cartography, executive presentations, teaching and training

EDUCATION

M.S., Geographic Information Systems: Cartography and Remote Sensing
Liberty University
May 2026, GPA 3.83

B.A., Biology
Metropolitan State University of Denver
Dec 2023

CERTIFICATIONS

- Esri Python Scripting for ArcGIS
- Remote Sensing and Mapping for Coral Reef Conservation, The Nature Conservancy (2026)
- PADI Master Diver; NAUI Coral Restoration Diver; PADI AWARE Coral Reef Conservation Specialty

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer Learning Assistant
CAYA | Aug 2026 - Present
Resume and job-readiness help for neurodivergent adults

Student Representative and Advisory Board Member
MSU Denver Access Center | Apr 2021 - Aug 2023
Disability advocacy and accessibility work with student groups

Speaker
Jeffco KID | Nov 2021 - Jan 2024
Supported students with dyslexia and their families