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Accreditation, certification, and the GIS curricula are only three of the many topics included in this Special Education Issue of the URISA *Journal*. The disciplines of GIS and GIScience are preparing the students of today for positions within an often ill-defined profession. This issue is intended to increase the level of communication and understanding between academics and professionals. Bridging this gap will help to further define the profession and satisfy its educational needs. The University Consortium of Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) and URISA have cooperated in producing this informative issue that concentrates on topics of special interest to both URISA and UCGIS members. This joint effort offers fresh insight into some of the salient issues facing the GIS professional community today. The issue also features draft copies of the GISCI Certification Program and the URISA Code of Ethics. This marks the first time these documents have been published in print.