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TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES FOR GEOSCIENCE PROFESSIONALS

In today's fast-paced business environment, our attention is continually occupied by measuring ourselves against increasing expectations. The life cycle of our skill sets grows shorter as the information age revolutionizes our workplace. We wonder if we can continue to prove our worth to the organization, or we lose ground. These are important questions that are also asked by organizations to determine our value. Often the answers to such questions determine the fate of our careers. It is then highly important to have clear technical competency measures by which such expectations are defined and understood.

In the late 1990's, having recognized the importance of defining standard-setting measures, the Society of Petroleum Engineers developed guidelines for minimum technical competence for many of the industry engineering disciplines. This paper proposes complementary guidelines for geoscience professionals. Similar to the previous work, the required competencies have been identified in terms of breadth and depth. An attached timeline completes the formation of a competency matrix and identifies the expectation time frame for acquiring various skills and competencies.