# FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

The Engineering Technology Department prepares professionals to serve in engineering/technical positions in industry and other settings. Students in Engineering Technology can choose to concentrate in Architecture, Construction Management, Electronics Engineering Technology, Energy Management Engineering Technology, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, Technology/Engineering Education 5-12 Licensure, and Technology/Engineering Education Industry Training.

## HOW TO USE THE ACTION PLAN

Use the Action Plan timeline to explore potential career paths and plan for success during and after your college experience. The Action Plan provides suggestions and a place to start the conversation with your advisor, but every person and every career journey is unique. Customize your own personal action plan using the **My Engineering Technology Action Plan** tool (next page).

Maximize the time you have in college to prepare for your future. What do you want to do after you graduate with an Engineering Technology degree?

The Action Plan helps you to come up with tentative goals (remember, it's ok if these change as you continue to learn more about yourself and the field!) so you can start working on short-term steps to help you reach those goals or shift directions. Remember, you do not have to do this all on your own, get the support you need from your department and from Student Support Services like **Career Services and Advising (CSA).**

## ALUMNI CAREER FIELDS

- **24%** Operations
- **21%** Engineering
- **11%** Business Development
- **10%** Program and Project Management

## WHY CONSIDER AN INTERNSHIP?

- Gain experience in potential career fields
- Explore and think critically about interest areas
- Build your professional networks

## EXAMPLES OF PAST INTERNSHIPS

- Cost Engineer Intern: Tocci Building Corporation
- Project Manager Intern: Columbia
- Quality Engineering Intern: Coghlin Companies, Inc.
- Project Engineer Intern: Nypro Inc.
- Engineering Technician Intern: Moss Hollow Solar, LLC

## ALUMNI STORY MARCUS PERLA '22

**Internship: FM Global: Risk Prevention Intern**

"This opportunity gave me a chance to truly grasp the role of engineering. The lessons and skills gained through this experience will carry with me much further than the actual internship itself. The material I was exposed to far exceeds any type of traditional education. This internship allowed me to get fully exposed to the process of engineering and developing. It also introduced me to the importance of team collaboration and networking. Every step of the way during my internship, I felt like I was given the resources/opportunity to apply the knowledge from attending FSU and make a considerable impact on the industrial field. I was exposed to new concepts, old theories and everything in between. I appreciate the chance to intern at this wonderful company and look forward to continuing my career there post graduation."

## CORE COMPETENCIES

**Problem Solving:**
Assess situations, identify problems and find solutions. Able to apply knowledge, techniques, and skills with modern tools of mathematics, science, engineering and technology to solve broadly defined engineering technology problems. Able to solve practical problems by handwork in engineering technology.

**Critical Thinking:**
Comprised of three major skills: analysis, synthesis, and evaluation, the individual is able to analyze the simulation results, find and fix the practical troubleshooting and evaluate the design for improvement.

**Oral/Written Communication:**
Apply written, oral, and graphical communication in broadly defined technical and non-technical environments. Able to identify and use appropriate technical literature to demonstrate or express ideas to others.

**Teamwork/Collaboration:**
Collaborate with other team members presenting diverse discipline, including active listening, negotiation, and clarity. Ability to encourage and inspire the team with positive attitudes and genuine agreement and support.

**Creativity/Leadership:**
Function effectively as a member, as well as a leader, on technical teams. Can organize and effectively use time, including personal schedule, to coordinate multiple groups.

**Lifelong Learning/Ethics:**
Perform a self-evaluation to recognize preferences, strengths, and weaknesses. Formulate a lifelong learning plan, monitor and update it as needed. Seek feedback from multiple sources about how to improve and develop in ethics. Modify behavior ethically based on feedback or self-analysis of past mistakes.

**Integrating and Applying Learning:**
Integrate newly learned knowledge and skills with existing knowledge and skills. Use newly learned knowledge and skills to complete tasks, particularly in new or unfamiliar situations. Show a self-awareness of how one learns (i.e., metacognition).

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

# ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN

Take a look at the suggested activities in the Action Plan below. You do not need to complete all these tasks, but it is a place to start generating ideas. Think about what you would like to work on now in order to feel well prepared to enter your career field or graduate school upon graduation. Use the blank My Action Plan tool with your advisor to come up with the action items that are priorities for you. Revisit and revise this action plan each semester.

| | FIRST YEAR | SOPHOMORE YEAR | JUNIOR YEAR | SENIOR YEAR |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ACHIEVE ACADEMIC MILESTONES** | Take classes that interest and challenge you particularly when selecting your General Education classes, and reflect on how they align with possible future careers | Confirm major choice is right for you<br>Declare a minor or double-major if desired and begin corresponding coursework | Go over your full plan of study with your advisor and make sure you are on track to reach your goals | Go over remaining degree requirements with your advisor and apply for graduation |
| **BUILD EXPERIENCE** | Take a career strength/skills assessment<br>Consider a part-time job to build your experience | Talk to your advisor about opportunities for internships/experiential learning<br>Apply to summer jobs/internships that will build relevant experience<br>Speak to a professor about specific interests and potential research opportunities<br>Consider participating in alumni job shadowing or informational interviews with professionals in potential career fields | Pay attention and attend events with employers on campus/career fairs<br>Search and apply to internships in your career field<br>Consider submitting work to the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference | If applicable, finalize a professional portfolio |
| **JOIN THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY** | Get involved with engineering societies, such as IEEE Young Professionals | Get involved with engineering societies, such as IEEE Young Professionals | Seek out leadership positions in university clubs and organizations | Attend campus events and connect with alumni and guests to build your network. |
| **EXPLORE CIVIC & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT** | Explore local agencies and organizations of interest | Talk with your advisor about opportunities to study abroad<br>Consider studying/practicing a new language | Consider volunteering with local arts agencies and organizations like Habitat for Humanity | Consider participating in a service organization or fellowship after graduation |
| **PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION** | Familiarize yourself with CSA workshops and services<br>Create resume and have it approved by an advisor in CSA Center<br>Activate your Handshake account | If applicable, begin to collect material for a professional portfolio<br>Create LinkedIn account<br>Attend a CSA workshop or one-on-one meeting to go over cover letters and interview prep<br>Explore different careers of interest by talking to people whose jobs interest you or finding engineering alumni on social media such as Linkedin, IEEE | Update Handshake profile<br>Consider graduate schools and decide if it's right for you and your career path<br>Develop a list of potential graduate school programs and check for audition and application requirements<br>Pay attention and attend events with employers on campus/career fairs like the Engineering Technology Career Fair | Apply to jobs and/or graduate school starting in the fall<br>Keep track of and follow up with job applications<br>If applicable, take graduate school entrance exams and complete applications<br>Practice skills by doing at least 2 mock interviews and getting feedback<br>Develop a list of potential employers and check for recruitment events/open positions throughout the year |

Note for Transfer Students: This plan is not rigid and you may be at different points in each section than your class year. This plan is just a starting point to discuss with your advisor and customize for the experiences you want to have before completing your degree.