FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY GEOGRAPHIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Geographic Science and Technology program offers premier training for examining geographic patterns and processes, and applying modern technologies (such as GPS, Geographic Information Systems, and Remote Sensing) to make differences in local, regional, and global communities. Knowledge and skills taught in the program have allowed students to launch their careers with diverse internship opportunities, to pursue further education at graduate schools, and to become employed at government agencies, scientific research institutes, and private industries.

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 Geographic Sciences and 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 a multi-purpose Arts Management and Entrepreneurship degree?

The Action Plan helps you to come up with tentative goals (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).**

WHY CONSIDER AN INTERNSHIP?

- Gain experience in creating online and/or traditional maps and analyzing spatial data which can be applied to various potential career fields
- Discover areas of interest
- Build your professional network

POTENTIAL INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCES

- GIS Technician/Intern –Farmland Inventory Project for the city of Fitchburg
- Urban Planning Internship with the Leominster Department of Planning & Development
- GIS Internship with City of Gardner

ALUMNI CAREER FIELDS

Private Consulting	Government
Non-profit	Education

ALUMNI STORY TRISTAN TAYLOR '17

Fitchburg Fiber LLC, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Member

"My career at Fitchburg State was full of good times and good people, but most importantly it provided me with a good education. The Geographic Science and Technology major's small size gave me access to professors, peers, and University resources that I believe I may not have gotten in a larger program. The technical education, internship opportunities, and connections I made in my time at Fitchburg State prepared me to launch into a full time GIS career, where I've never stopped learning and growing. While the software we use in the field changes rapidly with updates and new versions, the principles, analytical approaches, and ways of thinking I learned at Fitchburg State have carried me through and given me the foundation I needed to succeed."

CORE COMPETENCIES

Knowledge of Geography:
Demonstrate knowledge of human characteristics and their spatial distribution on the Earth's surface, including composition of population, cultural complexes, economic interdependence, settlement and political patterns. Describe the interactions between humans and their environment.

Field and Technology Skills:
Use of GPS, remote sensing, and field observations/ data collection to address geographic problems. Use geospatial software, such as Geographic Information System (GIS) and new technologies, such as drones, to acquire, manage, display, and analyze spatial data and satellite images.

Spatial Analysis:
Learn about the natural and human world through collecting, analyzing and interpreting spatial data.

Information and Digital Literacy:
Recognize what scientific information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use that information effectively and ethically.

Communication:
Effectively communicate geographic information through written, oral, cartographic, and graphic expression, and use scientific evidence to support ideas.

Teamwork / Collaboration:
Interact effectively in a group to solve geography problems and work productively with a diverse group of peers.

FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

GEOGRAPHIC SCIENCE AND 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	FINAL YEAR
ACHIEVE ACADEMIC MILESTONES	Make a plan for math and computer science! Check with your advisor regarding retaking the placement exam if necessary or completing Algebraic Preparation (Math 0500) if needed. Next, complete precalculus and the basic programing course of computer science I (CSC 1500).	Dive deep into the major. Plan the GST core courses and the electives that allow you to be challenged and explore interests. Consider adding a minor in GIS, GIS Crime Mapping and Analysis, Earth Science, or Environmental Public Health. Choose Gen Ed courses, including either a language or speech course to strengthen your oral communication.	Dive deeper into the major. Finish most of the GST core courses and plan major electives that interest you and are in-line with your graduate study / career goals. Consider an internship or an independent studies with faculty members as an option.	Get ready to graduate. Make sure you have 120 credits toward your degree and have met the Gen Ed and major (and minor) requirements. Double-check with your advisor and apply for graduation!
BUILD EXPERIENCE	Consider joining or starting a student organization relating to geospatial technologies, such as the GIS Club. Seek out leadership positions in campus clubs/activities. Follow the EGS Facebook page @ Facebook.com/FSU.EGS.	Seek out opportunities to study abroad, and/or on-campus work including peer tutoring, peer mentoring, and departmental work-study. Talk to your professors/advisor about research opportunities and apply for summer jobs or internships.	Attend events with employers on campus/ career fairs. Network in and out of your department. Visit career related websites such as gisjobs.com and gjc.org. Pay attention to internship opportunities in local agencies and organizations such as city/town hall, DPW, DEP, and planning offices.	Develop a list of potential employers and check for recruitment events/open positions throughout the year. Apply to jobs starting in December. Keep track of and follow up with job applications
PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION	Activate your Handshake account. Take a career strength/skills assessment Familiarize yourself with Career Services and Advising (CSA) workshops and services. Create a resume and have it approved by an advisor in the CSA Center.	Consider participating in alumni job shadowing or informational interviews with professionals in potential career fields. Create LinkedIn account/other accounts on industry specific platforms (i.e. schoolspring).	Attend events with employers and on campus, career fairs. Attend a CSA workshop or one-on-one meeting to go over cover letters and interview prep. Consider graduate/professional schools and decide if it's right for you and your career path.	If applicable, take graduate school entrance exams and complete applications. Practice skills by doing at least 2 mock interviews and getting feedback. Speak to your advisor and other faculty members about letters of recommendation.

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.