

Information for Prospective Internship Host Organizations

The GISC Capstone Experience is the culmination of a student's undergraduate career in geospatial science. The goal is to demonstrate that the student can **independently solve a geospatial problem involving some kind of spatial analysis, complete a written report and give a public presentation to an educated audience but not an audience of GIS specialists.** Most students prefer to complete an Internship because they then get real-life experience in a workspace using GIS. The other option is a Directed Study, favored by students already working closely with a faculty member, those who need an Honors Capstone project, or those who use classified data at their internship.

Interns work on whatever it is that a host organization needs. During the internship, students meet with a faculty member who helps the student take some portion of that work and turn it into a written project. The project is shared with the host organization.

Internship sites are needed every semester (fall, spring, and summer). Students must have completed at least 3 GIS courses; they must have a GPA greater than 2.5 in their GIS coursework. Full details about our GIS Certificate are available [here](#).

If you are interested in hosting a GISC Capstone Intern, please contact Dr. Jackie Gallagher, Chair, Department of Geography, UMW at 540-654-1493 or jgallagh@umw.edu. We strongly encourage hosts to advertise their positions using [Handshake](#). Please contact Rose Maddox (rwagner@umw.edu), Employer Relations Coordinator with UMW's Center for Career & Professional Development if you need help with Handshake. Not every internship is suitable for a capstone project.

A student registers for a 3-credit internship at the beginning of the semester via an academic internship contract. This requires the signature of an Agency Supervisor who must also provide input on the "duties to be completed" while at the internship. The student is required to complete a minimum of 126 hours of work for their internship during the 15-week semester (about 8 hours per week), plus the paper and presentation. It is also possible to complete the internship during the 10-week summer semester. The student might work at the same internship before and/or after this semester; they only need to earn credit for one semester.

Important Dates: Students begin registering for the following semester in the middle of the previous semester (March for Summer or Fall; October for Spring) – that is when I find out how many students are looking for an internship. Registration occurs in the first week of classes, or before – late August for Fall, early January for Spring, early May for summer.

We deeply appreciate all our internship providers!