

Intern Program

✓ In 1993 the Planning Commission initiated its intern program for college students. The efforts and talents of these students are utilized to benefit the Planning Commission in several important areas including the development of the Planning Commission's Geographic Information System (GIS) database, research related to Horizon Plan Action Items, computer technology,

Students gain work experience in planning research, field survey techniques, GPS data collection, web design and applications, computer cartography, and spatial database development. The intern program is designed to help students gain supervised practical job experience in their planning related fields, while earning money for their education.

Among the related fields are Geography, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Studies, Environmental Studies, Civil Engineering, Public Administration and Political Science. However, the Planning Commission has also benefited from the efforts and talents of students who have come from other fields such as Law, Business, Computer Science

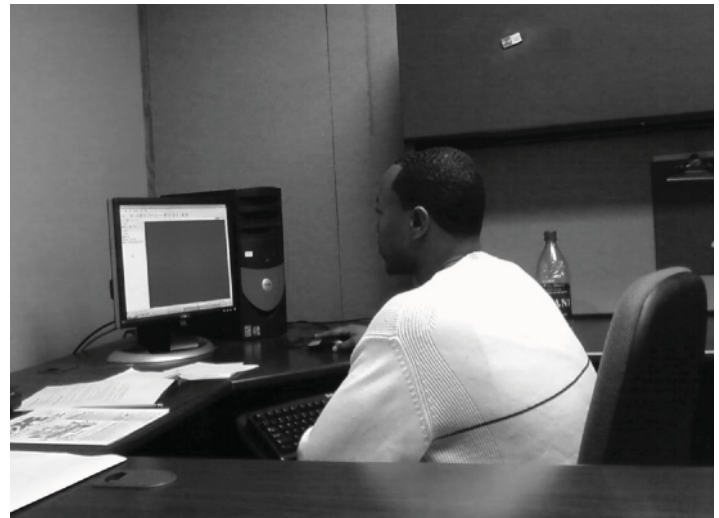
Not only are the interns recruited from around the state but the Planning Commission also recruits students on a national basis as well.

During the fall and spring semesters, students may work up to 20 hours a week. During the summer and winter breaks students may work a forty (40) hour

At any given time there are several student interns employed and working different hourly schedules for the Planning Commission. There have been instances when interns, that expressed interest in wanting to work for the Planning Commission after graduating, were hired to fill full-time vacant positions.

GIS Database

A large majority of the intern work has involved updating and maintaining the Planning Commission's Geographic Information System database.



Interns work with and assist the Planning Commission Staff on a variety of projects.

Through this process students gain practical knowledge and experience of land use survey and analysis, data recording procedures and database development. Since January 1994, interns have been collecting and recording various land use data, lot-by-lot, throughout the entire Parish of East Baton Rouge. Tasks include surveying parcels of land to record the address, existing land use, and business names, and geocoding gathered information into an Oracle database.

In addition to working on the land use data analysis and recording process, interns are hired to assist the staff with other work as well. This includes working with ongoing projects in the Land Use/Special Studies Section, Economic/Demographic Research Section, Current Division projects, and computer technology that included an enterprise document management system.

Land Use Action Items

The Horizon Plan is a 20-year comprehensive master land use and development plan for East Baton Rouge Parish. The Planning Commission serves as the Lead Agency for implementing many of the Horizon Plan strategies called "Action Items." Interns have also been assigned to assist the staff with the Horizon Plan amendment process and research updates on these Action Items. The Action Item land use elements include identification of view corridors to preserve important visual lines of major features such as the State Capitol; and establishing procedures for designation of urban design districts or corridors.

Computer Skills

Computer technology skills are also part of the student intern program. Through this type of work the student provides the staff with technical support; installation of hardware and software; network support; maintaining the file server; new software research and in-house development testing. Interns serve an important role in maintaining the Planning Commission computer network.

Environmental Research

Other aspects of the intern program include planning research for environmental projects and programs including: Wetlands, Brownfields, Greenspaces and Bike/Pedestrian Pathways. These studies involve research for environmental funding sources and data compiled for East Baton Rouge Parish related to water quality, storm water runoff and point source emissions.



Interns assist GIS staff with entry of planning data and data quality control.



Interns play an integral role in GIS data development and maintenance.

The Planning Commission and the universities can both appreciate the value of working together with the intern program. The students receive "real" planning work experience while the Planning Commission benefits from trained students who may want to join the Planning Commission Staff when an opening occurs, or who will take planning knowledge with them to other jobs in our community.

Applying for a Student Internship

Intern positions primarily involve fieldwork and data entry for GIS and some graphics related to comprehensive planning. Prospective students should be able to work full-time during the summer and winter break or approximately 15-20 hours per week during the fall or spring semesters. The candidates should be in good academic standing and working towards their degree in Planning or a related field such as Architecture, Civil Engineering, Geography, Environmental Science, Landscape Architecture, Political Science or Public Administration.

Please contact the City-Parish Planning Commission if interested in joining the Intern Program.

For more information contact:

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