In Their Own Words:
Geography Interns Describe their Work
GEO480 Internship in Geography

What kinds of responsibilities do Geography interns have? These comments from recent geography interns give you an idea, but the responsibilities and projects our interns work with vary from year to year, as do the agencies where they work:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 3

“I was assigned to do mostly screenings. This involved making maps of an area to determine a project’s proximity to endangered species habitats and other relevant information.”

“GIS! Screening incoming permit applications, making site maps of protected resources, writing letters to applicants, filing files.”

“GIS, data entry and fieldwork.”

“Mapped watersheds of lakes and ponds that pesticides are used in for pesticides. For Forestry I digitized tax-map parcels of private forested land west of the Hudson River.”

“My supervisor and I developed a project where I created maps of Westchester County. These maps used soils mapping and historic topographic maps to identify areas of potential historic fill. These maps will be distributed to C & D processing facility operators and local governments in the hope that they will be used to prevent the spread of contamination from mishandling of these soils.”

Scenic Hudson

“Worked mainly in GIS finishing map requests for other workers—editing property boundaries, creating aerial maps with wetlands, etc. GIS: create shp files, edit metadata. Worked on Rapid Ecological Assessments (REA). Completed a valley-wide study pertaining to land use, land cover change, with a series of 24 maps and a research design paper.”

“Data management, map-making with GIS, GIS Analysis, and fieldwork, including Rapid Ecological Assessments.”

Dutchess County Planning and Development:

“Main responsibility was an analysis project of a Congestion Management Program the Department was undertaking. The Travel Time Survey (TTS) incorporated GIS, data analysis, database work, and preparation of final report that detailed my analysis which can be obtained if need be.”
“Collecting oral histories, primary research, transcribing, scanning documents, creating a comprehensive history of Sam’s Point’s conservation. Monitoring social trails, creating a GIS, mapping trails.”

“GIS mapping, shadowing of supervisor, research participating in TNC events/lectures.”

**Ulster County Department of the Environment**

“Mostly cartographic work for various projects being done by Ulster County.”

**Town of Poughkeepsie Planning Department**

“Learned effective strategies of planning, zoning and environmental land use. Reviewed site plans, researched brownfields/alternate energy, and analyzed land use within the Town.”

“I was responsible for a number of things. At first it was my job to update their GIS software to ArcView10 on two desktops and three laptops. It was also my responsibility to get the new field laptops up and running. Specifically I installed the GPS software onto the laptops so we could use a GPS on the computers. My last responsibility was to map new social trails on the Shawangunk Ridge and also monitor four social trails. I also had to re-monitor two social trails and three authorized trails.”