

UNOLS-MATE Marine Technical Internship Program ~ Five Year Career Plan

Please complete the self-assessment table below. This will help you organize and schedule your goals. Once you are finished with the table, write your five-year plan in response to the questions and guidelines in #3 below. Assemble all the material required in numbers 1, 2 and 3 below in one document and upload it to fulfill this assignment. Finally, don't forget to take the end-of-semester survey that will help us improve the course.

1. **Self-assessment table:** Make a list like the one below of the education/training/certification, experience and general skills you will need to enter the career you have chosen. For each, note whether they are required or simply add value to your "package," then note whether you have it or need it and where/how you can get it.
2. **Your Strategy:** Now you are ready to plan the next steps in your career path. For this exercise, you will list the steps you plan to take to gain the education, certification, and/or experience you need to enter the career of your choosing. Write a paragraph in complete sentences and in your own words listing needs you have identified in the table above and outlining generally the things you plan to do to address each need. Ideally, this should be a real-life strategy, considering your current situation and your overarching goals.

In addition to education and certification, you should include plans on getting experience and for working on general skills that will help you get and keep a job in your chosen field. Throughout your timeline, you should focus on the qualifications required for your chosen career and for those that will add value to your "package" as a job seeker when you enter the labor market.

3. **Your Five-Year Plan!** Write a timeline for the time period you choose to cover with your plan (see below). The timeline will be a list of dates and the goals you have for that date. Be specific about where and how you will accomplish those goals. For example, don't say, "2025: Hydrographic Surveying License." Instead say something like...

EXAMPLE:

Based upon this internship, my interest in seafloor mapping has increased and I would like to prepare for a position in the hydrographic survey industry.

- Spring 2021: Complete A.S. Degree, Marine Technology, Cape Fear Community College (including courses in Hypack and GIS).
- Fall 2021: Apply for jobs in the Hydrographic Survey field
Or Transfer to Northwest Michigan College to earn a Bachelor's in Marine Technology
 - Take courses in drone technology and mapping
 - Work on a Six Pack Coast Guard License
- 2023: Enter the Hydrographic Survey workforce
- 2023: Work towards professional certification in Hydrographic Surveying (THSOA)
- 2025: Take test to earn a professional certification in Hydrographic Surveying and the Six Pack Coast Guard License

Remember, this is a flexible process. You can change the five-year plan at any time to go in a new direction or to account for unforeseen circumstances. Also, if the five-year timeframe doesn't make sense in your situation, you may lengthen or shorten the timeframe of your plan to suit your circumstances. Perhaps you plan to pursue a Ph.D. in marine biology, and depending on where you are in your education, you may have far more than five years to go until the end of your education. In that case, you may want to lengthen the timeframe of your plan. If instead you plan to enter a one-year certificate program in GIS, work in a six-month internship, and then enter the workforce, a shorter timeframe might make sense. As a rule of thumb, the timeframe of your plan should be no longer than you can realistically foresee and long enough for you to plan your entry into the workforce beyond school or training. Hand in this project in the usual way and print out a copy to keep with you.

My name:				
My career goal:				
Education, training or certification	Required/ added value	I have it.	I need it.	Where/ How can I get it?
Experience	Required/ added value	I have it.	I need it.	Where/ How can I get it?
General skills	Required/ added value	I have it.	I need it.	Where/ How can I get it?