Preparing Students for the Workforce
A Balanced Approach
Talbot Brooks
Delta State University
Typical Approach

• Higher Education
  • Liberal Arts Core
  • Major Course of Study
• Student Activities
• Part-time/Summer Job
### Higher Education: Liberal Core

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>SUB/TR</th>
<th>SEM</th>
<th>HRS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 101 Eng Comp</td>
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<td>ENG LIT Elect</td>
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<td>HIS 101, 102, 103, 104, 201, or 202</td>
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<td>COM 101, 102, or 202</td>
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*Select one art, music, theater appreciation, history, intro course

**ANT 101; ECO 210,211; GEO 201, 303; PSC 103, 201;
PSY 101; SOC 101

### Writing Proficiency Requirements

| EN 300, CR/CAAP, CR/PPST, EN 301                                      |       | 0-3 |

### Special Degree Requirements

| EN 303 Technical Writing                                           |       | 3   |
| PER 101 Concepts in PE                                            |       | 1   |
Higher Education: Major Course

### Geospatial Core

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<tr>
<td>REM 421 Info Extract - Microwave Data</td>
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<td>GIS 470 Programming GIS</td>
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<td>CIS 235 Micro Applications II</td>
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**Geospatial Technologies: 53**

### Select four of the following: 12

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<td>GEO 303 World Regional Geography</td>
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<td>GEO 443 Military Geography</td>
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How to Make Better Use of Their Time (Value)?
### Balance Through Cooperative Education

#### GEOSPATIAL CORE

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Making Cooperative Education Count

• Tie Experience to Education via Certification
• Example
  • 4-5 years part-time experience plus full-time summers
  • Geospatial core curriculum
  • Specialized upper-division courses
  • Student should pass USGIF journeyman-level exams (initial success rate being tested now)
The New Balance

• 4-year degree
• Typical student activities
• 2-4 year’s commensurate experience
• Experience and education leveraged to earn certifications
The Big Ask

• How do we make Cooperative Education more commonplace in Geography, particularly with respect to the common skills needed (but which are un-popular with many academic geographers – ex, programming, data management, analytic techniques...)?

• How do we further tighten the linkage between SOC, geography/geospatial degrees, certification, and cooperative education such that there is a well recognized continuum feeding the workplace?