



## **Introduction**

PSM in GISci degree candidates are expected to achieve comprehensive knowledge in the professional development, planning and implementation of a GIScience project. To demonstrate this achievement, candidates are required to present both written and oral summaries of a professionally completed GIScience project for evaluation by a committee of two faculty members affiliated with the program. Upon the candidate's successful completion of the requirements, the coordinator of graduate study will electronically document achievement of the Certificate of Comprehensive Knowledge requirement of the EIU Graduate School, designated as either "pass" or "pass with distinction". The policy for completing this requirement is outlined below.

## **Procedure**

Students should consult with their internship coordinator, cooperating professor or PSM Program Coordinator by the beginning of their final semester to discuss a potential project. Once you are ready to present your project:

1. Consult with the PSM Coordinator and any faculty mentor(s) to identify a presentation date.
2. The oral presentation must be advertised at least three days in advance.
3. Submit your written report in paper form or as a single PDF document to the PSM Coordinator on or before the presentation date.

## **Oral Component**

The oral component shall consist of a presentation of approx. 30-45 minutes, followed by questions. Oral presentations will be open to the public, and other PSM students are encouraged to attend. Off-campus students may present using Skype or other virtual meeting technologies.

## **Written Component**

The written component shall consist of a professionally prepared report describing each of the phase of the project. A typical report will be 10-15 pages, double-spaced, with appropriate figures, tables and citations. Reports should be written at a conceptual level; workflow diagrams are encouraged.

## **Acceptable Projects**

Projects should have a clear objective, involve a substantial GIS component and produce a tangible result. You are encouraged to present an applied project using GIS in a professional setting, especially a project performed as part of the internship requirement. Alternatively, you may also build on coursework to develop and present an independent research project suitable for presentation at a professional meeting.

## **Project Outline**

Project reports should encompass all phases of project development, planning and implementation, including:

1. Project motivation and problem statement
2. Assessment of project needs vs. available resources
3. Data acquisition and quality assessment
4. Project implementation and analysis methods
5. Project results, including any products or deliverables
6. Assessment, reflections and future work



These phases should be documented in both the written and oral presentations.

## Assessment

The written and oral components shall be evaluated together by a committee of at least two faculty members, determined by the program coordinator. The assessment may result in one of the following:

- **Pass with Distinction:** Reserved for exemplary projects that exceed expectations.
- **Pass:** A quality project that meets the standards of the PSM program.
- **Revision Required:** Revision is required to meet the standards of the PSM program. The assessment will include a statement of the required revisions. A maximum of one revision is allowed.
- **Fail:** The project is unacceptable and cannot be revised. The assessment will include a statement of the reasons for this determination. This assessment may be appealed according to the standard appeal process of the university.

## Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct <http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>. You are responsible for clearly identifying the sources of all facts, ideas and opinions that you specifically acquired from other sources. ***Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated, and will result in a FAIL assessment and expulsion from the PSM program.***

A good resource for understanding plagiarism is [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org). You may use any standard and consistent reference/citation style but APA is recommended. A good summary of APA can be found at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/664/01/>