

The GTCM Model Curriculum Development Project

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The recent [Geospatial Technology Competency Model \(GTCM\)](#) by the Employment Training Administration of the US Department of Labor (DOLETA) provides geospatial educators with the first-ever federally-endorsed *national* model for curriculum development. The GTCM is a concise and comprehensive list of competencies required by workers in the geospatial industry, ranging across all industry sectors and levels of expertise, from technician to scientist. Using the GTCM, educators can develop geospatial curriculum that not only meets their local business needs, but prepares their graduates for life-long skills that will serve them throughout their professional lifetime, regardless of their geographic location. It may also provide for better alignment between college and university geospatial curriculums.

To turn the GTCM into useable curriculum, the GeoTech Center has recently undertaken its [GTCM Model Curriculum Development Project](#). This project has the goal of developing curriculum outlines for: a) Model GTCM-Aligned Certificate and b) Model GTCM-Aligned Courses within the Certificate. These model curriculums will be developed by large numbers of geospatial educators selected for their experience and expertise in both technology and education through a consensus process. The result will be a SCORM-compliant e-learning course pack that allows any educator to download and install the model course pack into their SCORM-compliant course management system (CRM), such as Moodle, Blackboard, WebCT, D2L, and others. The course packs will be a ready-to-use (and modify) course outline including: syllabus, learning objectives (required and recommended) from the GTCM, sample assessment tools, textbook recommendations, and suggested learning resources. Faculty will be free to use as much or little of the recommended course pack material as they see fit. It is expected the material will be localized to represent differences in local employer needs and student outcomes.

The GeoTech Center is holding a series of faculty development workshops around the country in 2011 and 2012 to develop the courses as well as educate faculty on the GTCM and its use in both academic and vocational geospatial technology programs. We believe this effort is valuable to both for-credit academic and non-credit adult and secondary-education vocation programs.

