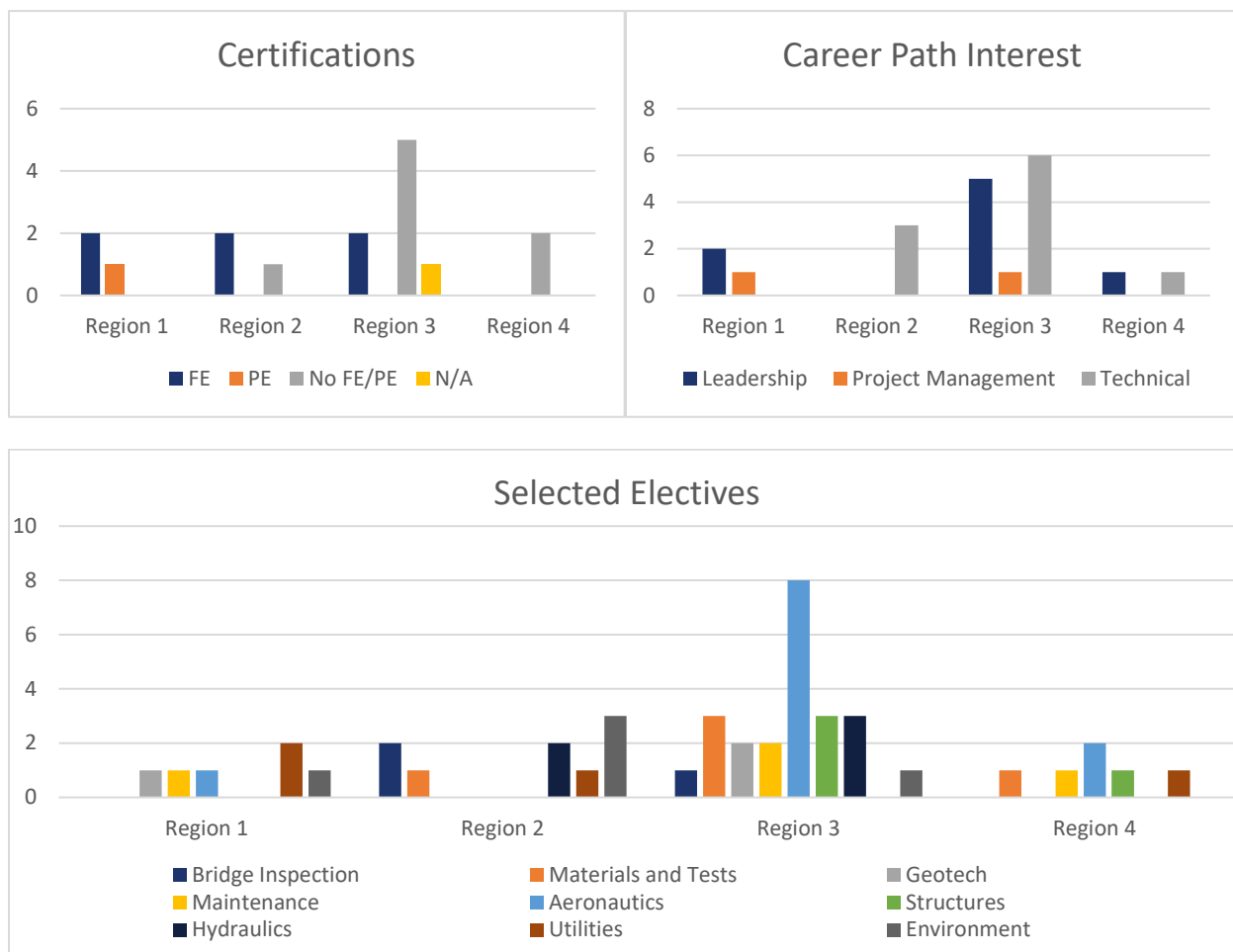


GRADUATE TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING PROGRAM: 2023 GTES: CAREER COUNSELING SESSIONS

BIGGEST TAKEAWAYS FROM CAREER COUNSELING

- All GTEs want to stay in their home region.
- Two to three GTEs in Region 3 would like to be in HQ. Primarily due to the ability to work hybrid at HQ rather than the Region.
- Some GTEs shared that the program felt longer than needed including some of the rotations.
- Some GTEs noted their interest in certain disciplines were based on location and the ability to work outside vs inside.
- There is a need for additional information about the elective choices. We hosted information sessions in the past and recordings were not able to be saved. Brainstorming additional ways to share information would be helpful.
- Some communication gaps found between GTEs, GTE Coordinators, Unit Supervisors, and the HR Program Coordinator. There is a need for additional communication channels.



2023 GTE TOP INTERESTS FOR 2025 PLACEMENT

Region 1:

- Jared Bane
 - Construction, District 19 Lafollette
- Spence Powers
 - Construction, Region 1 Knoxville
 - Geodetics, Region 1 Knoxville
 - Geotech, Region 1 Knoxville

Region 2

- Greggory Fugunt
 - Bridge Inspection
 - Geodetics
 - Construction
- Kennley Gabel
 - Bridge Inspection
 - Geodetics
 - Traffic Operations
- Benjamin Van Breugel
 - Traffic Operations
 - Roadway Design
 - Materials and Tests

Region 3:

- Seth Mechling
 - Bridge Inspection
 - Traffic Operations
 - Construction
- Madison McKinney
 - Materials and Tests – Materials Controls
 - Materials and Tests – Lab
 - Construction
- Samal Aminashairi
 - Roadway Design
 - Traffic Design
 - Roadway Design

- Samal Aminashairi
 - Roadway Design
 - Traffic Design
 - Roadway Design
- Reem Magdlawia
 - Structures – Structural Design
 - Roadway Design
 - Traffic Design – Signals
- Mia Metcalf
 - Construction, District 39 Murfreesboro
 - Traffic Operations
 - N/A
- Jose Portillo
 - Traffic Operations
 - Roadway Design
 - Construction
- Renas Barzanji
 - Traffic Operations/Design (HQ)
 - Construction (if hybrid)
 - Materials and Tests
- Seandrell McLemore
 - Construction
 - PTRF
 - Materials and Tests

Region 4:

- Fasil Getu
 - Construction
 - Utilities
 - Geodetics
- Tyshaun Cobbs
 - Construction
 - Maintenance
 - Traffic Operations

REGION 1 – NOVEMBER 15, 2024

William (Spence) Powers

- Wants to stay in Region 1, specifically Knoxville office.
- Most interested in leadership track. Maybe Project Management one day.
- Has FE. Plans to attempt PE.
- Noted that he does not talk with his new Coordinator that often and there was confusion about his next rotation. Switched from Amber Luttrell to Megan Cool recently. Cleared up confusion and got things on track with his schedule.
- Elective choices: Geotech, Utilities, Environment
- Believe 2 years is a long time for the program and more recent graduates are better for the program overall. Graduated from UTK in 2022.
- Top Choices:
 1. Construction
 2. Geodetics
 3. Geotech

Jared Bane

- Wants to stay in Region 1, specifically District 19 LaFollette.
- Most interested in leadership track.
- Noted that he does not talk with his new Coordinator that often and there was confusion about his next rotation. Switched from Amber Luttrell to Megan Cool recently. Cleared up confusion and got things on track with his schedule.
- Has PE.
- Elective choices: Maintenance, Utilities, Aeronautics
- Did not enjoy Design work.
- Believe the program is based on who and what is going on at that time so may not have the same opportunities as other GTEs. (weather, projects, etc.)
- Thinks the rotation may not be good because some students (at school) said they see the 2 years as a loss of their career.
- Top Choices:
 1. Construction, District 19, Campbell County, LaFollette
 - 2.
 - 3.

REGION 2 – NOVEMBER 14, 2024

Greggory Fugunt (done virtually)

- Wants to stay in Region 2
- Most interested in engineering technical. Does not see himself in a leadership role.
- Does not have FE but plans to get that and PE in the future.
- Elective choices: Bridge Inspection, Hydraulics, Environment
- Did not enjoy Design work.
- Applied in 2021 but glad he was able to come on board in 2023 so he had the opportunity to rotate.

- Believes Traffic portion in HQ needs work because some of the objectives are difficult to meet due to time.
- Top Choices:
 1. Bridge Inspection
 2. Survey
 3. Construction

Benjamin Van Breugel

- Wants to stay in Region 2
- Most interested in engineering technical. One day, leadership but wants to develop skillset first.
- Has FE. Prepping for PE.
- Elective choices: M&T, Hydraulics, Environment
- Enjoys the Design work.
- Believes he has grown a lot because of the GTE Program.
- EPIC changes make it difficult because it puts the GTEs on the back burner and movements are rapid/hard.
- Believe construction could be shorter (4-5 months)
- Top Choices:
 1. Traffic Operations
 2. Roadway Design
 3. Materials & Tests

Kennley Gabel

- Wants to stay in Region 2
- Most interested in engineering technical. One day, leadership but wants to develop skillset first.
- Has FE. Prepping for PE.
- Elective choices: Bridge Inspection, Utilities, Environment
- Did not feel argumentative enough for Construction.
- Wants as much field work as possible and not interested in Design work.
- Enjoys the program because she felt unsure after graduation about what area of civil she wanted to go into so the program helps with that.
- Feels the program is helpful for prepping for the PE.
- Believes Geodetics could be 3 months long.
- Top Choices:
 1. Bridge Inspection
 2. Geodetics
 3. Traffic Operations

REGION 3 – NOVEMBER 21 & 22, 2024

Seth Mechling

- Wants to stay in Region 3.
- Taking FE Spring 2025. Plans to obtain PE
- Elective choices: Bridge Inspection, Hydraulics, Aeronautics
- Noted that his Unit Supervisors and Coordinator, Lee Rogers, has been great.

- Interested in all career paths, leadership, project management, and engineering technical.
- Has enjoyed the program overall but thinks there is only so much you can do with the time allotted.
- Top Choices:
 1. Bridge Inspection
 2. Traffic Operations
 3. Construction

Madison McKinney

- Studied Chemical Engineering.
- Wants to stay in Region 3.
- Taking FE Spring 2025. Wants to pursue PE for future positions and career advancement. Would more than likely not be Civil PE.
- Elective choices: Materials and Tests, Aeronautics, and Environment
- Interested in all career paths, leadership, project management, and engineering technical. Leadership seems a bit out of reach because of PE. Unsure about ability to use Chem Engineering PE the same as Civil.
- Believes the program is good especially for early career. Although the 2 years went by fast, it does seem long.
- Not interested in Design work.
- Top Choices:
 1. Materials and Tests – Materials Controls
 2. Materials and Tests – Lab
 3. Construction

Samal Aminashairi

- Wants to stay in Region 3.
- Has FE and is preparing for PE.
- Elective choices: Aeronautics, Hydraulics, Geotech
- Interested in leadership and engineering technical career paths.
- Came in knowing she liked design but enjoyed the ability to rotate to ensure that was the right discipline for her.
- Thought the time was good but that Construction could be less and more time could go to Traffic.
- Top Choices:
 1. Roadway Design
 2. Traffic Design
 3. Roadway Design

Reem Magdlawia

- Wants to stay in Region 3.
- Taking FE Fall 2024. Plans to obtain PE.
- Elective choices: Aeronautics, Structures, Geotech
- Really enjoys Design work.
- Master's Program on hold and resuming in Spring 2026.

- Really enjoys the program and believes it has helped her to understand more about the connection between disciplines.
- Top Choices:
 1. Structures – Structural Design
 2. Roadway Design
 3. Traffic Design – Signals

Mia Metcalf

- Wants to stay in Region 3.
- Cannot obtain FE/PE due to studying Concrete Industry Management
 - Holland Padgham mentioned being able to potentially get the FE with experience rather than degree.
- Elective choices: Maintenance, Utilities, Aeronautics
- Did not really enjoy Design or Geodetics work.
- Interested in pursuing PMP. Potentially through a school program that would offer it as part of the curriculum.
- Enjoys the program and being able to see how disciplines tie together but thinks that with some rotations, “when you know, you know” if you like them or not.
- Did not have bad experience with Unit Supervisors.
- Top Choices:
 1. Construction – Rutherford County
 2. Traffic Operations
 - 3.

Jose Portillo

- Wants to stay in Region 3.
- Taking FE Spring 2025. Plans to obtain PE.
- Elective choices: Maintenance, Aeronautics, Structures
- Really enjoys Design work but enjoyed Traffic the most.
- Close to obtaining master's in civil from TSU.
- Has interest in Asset Management. Has been contacted by Chris Harris.
- Overall, has really enjoyed the program.
- Was asked by Structures for a resume/transcript. Assumed that meant he would not be able to rotate through Structures. I communicated that was not the case and that there were no prerequisites for rotations outside of being accepted to the program in the first place.
- Top Choices:
 1. Traffic Operations
 2. Roadway Design
 3. Construction

Renas Barzanji

- Wants to stay in Region 3.
- Current employee turned GTE. Started 10/9/2023
- Did not do Roadway Design rotation due to experience level and was a GTA.

- Has FE. Plans to obtain PE.
- Elective choices: Materials and Tests, Hydraulics, Aeronautics
- Prefers HQ because of the ability for a hybrid schedule being more likely.
- Does not want to end up back in Design.
- Has enjoyed the program more than she thought she would.
- Was told prior to starting the program that she would be able to bypass the TES3 but I explained that was not the case. Think it may be good to have an additional conversation about progression given it is a different situation because of her previous years of experience.
- Top Choices:
 1. Traffic Operations/Design (HQ)
 2. Construction (if hybrid)
 3. Materials and Tests

Seandrell McLemore

- Wants to stay in Region 3.
- Current employee turned GTE. Started 9/25/2023
- Had to extend some rotations due to being on educational leave to finish school.
- Plans to pursue FE and PE.
- Elective choices: Materials and Tests, Aeronautics, PTRF (if possible)
- Finishing master's in civil from TSU December 2024.
- Getting in the field and interacting with others is important to him.
- Has greatly enjoyed the program and believes it is a great way to learn the ins and outs.
- Thinks there could be more safety measures implemented and specifically called out surveying. Believes using drones more frequently could help.
- Top Choices:
 1. Construction
 2. PTRF
 3. Materials and Tests

REGION 4 – NOVEMBER 8, 2024

Fasil Getu

- Wants to stay in Region 4
- Top Choices:
 1. Construction
 2. Utilities
 3. Geodetics
- Construction is where he wants to go primarily. Believes he is able to see his impact the most in construction and sees more growth for him there.
- Elective choices: Materials and Tests, Utilities, Aeronautics
- Very interested in leadership opportunities.

Tyshaun Cobbs

- Wants to stay in Region 4
- Top Choices:

1. Construction
2. Maintenance
3. Traffic Operations

- Construction is where he wants to go primarily. He really enjoyed working for Justin McGill and would like to work for him again in District 49 Shelby County Construction.
- Would consider Maintenance if there was an engineering position there.
- Elective choices: Structures, Maintenance, Aeronautics
- Wanted more information on Structures/Hydraulics.
- Believes the program could use more communication around the electives.