

My name is Tyrik Thompson a student here at FSU. I'm actually a senior, specifically with two majors in Geography and Intelligence Studies with a minor in Geospatial Intelligence.

Using that I hope to pursue a career in Geospatial Intelligence as an analyst. With either NGA or AirForce. And ultimately, I do always want to continue to go back to school take my graduates and from there pursue a doctorate. That is an end goal to my education. But all in all I just want to continue to do Intelligence work and that is where I see myself prospering in the future.

When my mentor, his name was Dr. Jeffery Epps, and he advised me to attend FSU. He said they had a great program in Homeland Security and a pretty good Computer Science program. And so I was like, ok, I'll try this out. And one other thing that stuck out was the 2+3 and I'm like I can do that and still go to NC State even if I don't get in since I was waitlisted. I had just completely forsaken NC State and pursued this field because it allowed me to travel to Florida, and Texas and South Carolina as well for three separate conferences that I was able to attend. And that allowed me to network with individuals such as NGA, which is one of the people I wanted to meet.

Those at ESRI who are the forerunners in terms of GIS in general. And then that projected me into having an internship with NGA that I have this summer. So I felt because of me deciding to attend here, me meeting Rakesh, Dr. Tran, Dr. Amilue, all these people who helped guide me down this geography based path. And of course Col. Lee, we can't forget Col. Lee. And because of this, I feel in myself that I'm set up for the right position to actually really prosper once I graduate from FSU.

Because one thing I have noticed while I'm here is everyone is very family oriented. They will gladly have your back and help you with anything that you need. You don't find very many selfish people out here. That was one thing I did find impressive and really did enjoy.

I would also inform them that one thing I've found that smaller colleges have versus the more larger institutions is that one on one time you actually get with your professors. You're not just a number on a piece of paper because a professor is having to deal with hundreds of students. But no, you have small classroom sizes means you get more time with them which means overall you're getting life long experience of that professor along with the specific knowledge they are giving you about that specific subject. It's those types of things that I would inform someone from my own hometown if they were thinking about attending FSU.