

University Task Force on Undergraduate Curriculum
Internship Summary—Current Practices
Marian Borg

1. Overview

Internships are generally defined as work-related experiences that usually last one semester but may be longer. Internship requirements and participation rates vary both across and within UF colleges.

Although most colleges do not require internships (see individual summaries below), they are “strongly encouraged” as part of a culminating undergraduate experience.

2. Student Participation

According to 2008 NSSE survey results, approximately 51% of UF seniors reported having completed a practicum, internship, field experience, or clinical assignment, compared to 63% of seniors at UF peer institutions.

Students pursue internships in one of two primary ways.

For Academic Credit:

- Most colleges and programs provide an avenue for students to earn academic credit for their internship experience.
- Course numbers 4940 or 4941 are offered in many departments, however in some programs, internships may also be included in courses called “work experience,” student teaching, co-ops, and individual study.
- In some colleges, students pursue internship credit through the Honors’ Program IDS/IDH prefix.
- Enrollment data offer a partial indication of student participation in internships through the 4940/4941 course numbers;
 - **Based on a 3-year average for AY2005-2008, these course data indicate approximately 2000 students annually complete an internship for academic credit.**
 - Individual college data is summarized below.

Non-Credit

- Impressionistic data strongly suggest that many more students complete internships for which academic credit is either not sought or not available.

3. Acquiring Internships

Individual Colleges

- Many colleges/programs/departments list current internship opportunities on their websites.
- Many direct students to the Career Resource Center for help in locating an internship.
- Some (i.e., College of Engineering, College of Fine Arts) work with the CRC to maintain internship databases specific to their discipline.

Career Resource Center

- The CRC is a major resource used by students interested in acquiring an internship. Many colleges direct students to CRC databases for current internship opportunities. Each college is assigned a CRC liaison to assist students interested in internship opportunities.
- According to Heather White, Senior Assistant Director for Career Networks, students are increasingly seeking internship experiences and seeking them earlier in their undergraduate experience. Though juniors/seniors are still the most likely applicants, the CRC has seen an increase in the number of freshman/sophomores seeking internships.
- Specific CRC Programs Aimed at Providing Internship Opportunities:
 - BRIDGE: Partnership between CRC and the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of providing local, career-related internships to UF students.
 - **Participation data indicate an increasing number of students interested in pursuing internships. In Spring 2004, 37 internship opportunities were available through BRIDGE and 350 resumes were submitted. Between Fall 2004 and Fall 2007, an approximate average of 75 opportunities and 350 resumes were submitted. Latest data from Spring 2008 indicate 133 opportunities and 1455 resumes submitted.**
 - Career Showcase: a 2-day event each fall and spring semester hosting representatives from technical and non-technical industries seeking candidates of all majors for job positions including internships.
 - **Participation data is incomplete; 100-150 internships were offered Fall 2008; no systematic data available for the number of students who acquired and/or completed an internship through this program.**
 - Gator CareerLink: on-line job search database available to all UF students that includes internship opportunities and their specialized skill and knowledge requirements;
 - **Participation data is incomplete: Over 1300 internship listings are provided annually; 342 current listings; no systematic data available on number of students who complete an internship obtained through this database.**

The David F. Miller Center for Retailing Education and Research

- The Miller Center, housed in the Warrington College of Business Administration, is another source of internships used primarily by business majors, but also available to non-business majors interested in retail careers.
- **Participation data indicate that each summer over 100 undergraduates receive internships with retailers participating in the program.**
- Internships are completed for course credit and are paid.

4. Summary Information for Individual Colleges

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

- 21 of 24 degree programs offer an internship course for credit (usually 4941, but courses are also called practical work experience, student teaching, coop work experience, practicum, individual study);
- 9 majors require an internship;
- **A 3-year average of 260 students were enrolled in internship courses for credit over AY05-08;**
- CALS exit survey administered in May 2008 found approximately 44% of graduating seniors had completed an internship;.
- CALS website lists specific internship opportunities with various organizations as well as legislative internship opportunities at the state or federal level;
- The Loop Legislative Internship Program provides financial assistance for full-time CALS undergraduates who complete government internships at the state or federal level.

Warrington College of Business Administration

- All business majors are strongly encouraged to take part in at least one internship experience; all are required to complete either an internship or overseas studies experience;
- Currently, approximately 60% of graduates have completed at least one internship;
- WCBA lists the Career Resource Center, Gator CareerLink on-line service (though CRC), Career Showcase and the Miller Center as sources for locating internship opportunities;
- Website also lists specific internships available in and out of state;
- **A 3-year average of 48 students were enrolled in internship courses for credit over AY05-08;**
- Students can also earn credit for internships through Honors Program (IDH) prefix.

College of Design, Construction and Planning

- Six separate disciplinary programs; some (i.e., Professional BA in Landscape Architecture) require an internship; most encourage them and offer optional internship courses for credit;
- **A 3-year average of 81 students were enrolled in internship courses for credit over AY05-08;**
- Some individual program sites include specific internship opportunities currently available; some sponsor career fairs to place students at specific internships.

College of Engineering

- **A 3-year average of 66 students were enrolled in internship courses for credit over AY05-08;**
- "Recruit a Gator Engineer" links to CRC for internship opportunities;
- Internships are encouraged but not required.

Fine Arts

- Three degree programs; internships are encouraged but not required at the undergraduate level;
- **A 3-year average of 87 students were enrolled in internship courses for credit over AY05-08.**
- Since 2004, an internship data base has been available to all Fine Arts students through the Career Resource Center and provides access to professional and work opportunities in their specific field of study.

Health and Human Performance

- Five BS degrees offered; 4 of 5 require students to complete a semester long internship as their culminating experience in the College; all coursework must be completed before the internship;
- The 5th degree program (BS in Athletic Training) requires clinical hours as opposed to an internship in the junior/senior year;
- Depending on the dept/program the internship is 12-15 semester hours and is either graded or S/U;
- **A 3-year average of 406 students were enrolled in internship courses for credit over AY05-08.**

Journalism

- Four degree programs; none require students to complete an internship, but each strongly encourages at least one and allows internship credit to fulfill professional elective credit requirements;
- Depending on the program, internships carry 1-3 credit hours and are either graded or S/U;
- Students must meet minimum GPA and course pre-requisites before enrolling in internship courses;
- **A 3-year average of 395 students were enrolled in internship courses for credit over AY05-08.**

Liberal Arts & Sciences

- 42 majors; none require students to complete an internship, but most strongly encourage them and allow internship credit to fulfill elective course requirements within the major;
- Depending on the major, internship courses carry 1-4 credit hours and are either graded or S/U; some departments allow multiple internships and up to 9 hours to count towards major requirements;
- Depending on the major, students must meet minimum GPA and course pre-requisites before enrolling in internship courses;
- In departments that do not offer a specific internship course, students can earn credit through the Honors IDS or IDH internship course number;
- **A 3-year average of 584 students were enrolled in internship courses for credit over AY05-08.**

Education

- 20 bachelor's and advanced degree programs with 45 concentration areas offered within five academic units. At least two (Master of Education and Education Specialist and Department of School Psychology doctoral program) require an internship experience but these are conducted at the MA/PhD level.