Sociology Internship Program

The Sociology Internship Program is designed to provide junior and senior sociology students with the opportunity to work hands-on in the community and gain practical knowledge and work experience. The program helps students connect sociological theory to the “real world.” Throughout the semester students will actively apply their sociological knowledge to gain a deeper understanding of their internship experiences. Participation in the program requires both on-site and academic work. Course credit is available to those students who fulfill the requirements of the internship program.

Key parts of a successful sociology internship are

- Working with a community-engaged company, non-profit, or other organization
- ~10 hours a week working (~120 hrs total)
- Approval of the site supervisor
- Completing an “internship proposal” with the site supervisor and sponsoring faculty member
- Maintaining a journal of work experiences and reflections shared with the faculty sponsor
- Completing and submitting a summary paper describing the internship experience and reflecting on Sociology themes. Length and scope of this paper will be determined by the faculty sponsor

The Department policy for enrolling in such an internship is reflected in the following steps:

1. Find a community-focused / sociologically relevant organization that is willing to hire you as an intern. The position can be paid or unpaid.
2. Contact a sociology faculty member to determine if they are willing to sponsor your internship.
3. Complete the internship proposal form (attached/below); attain your site supervisor’s acknowledgment; submit the form to your sponsor.
4. If approved, enroll in SOC 4385 under your sponsors section and for the appropriate # of SCH (most often 3).
5. Get started!

Grading

SOC 4385 is generally graded on a scale of A-F by the faculty sponsor. The faculty sponsor will consult with the site supervisor to discuss student effectiveness, engagement, and growth during the internship. The sponsor will also review the reflections and the final summary paper before determining a final grade.
Department of Sociology - Internship Proposal Form

This proposal form is to be completed by the student, in collaboration with their faculty sponsor and site supervisor. This agreement serves several purposes.

- To provide a framework or structure for the internship experience
- To serve as a reminder to all learning partners of the purpose and activities of the internship
- To provide the basis for evaluation and validation of the learning experience

This form must be completed no later than two weeks from the start of the internship. It is important for learning objectives, expectations, and requirements to be set before beginning the internship. Therefore, credit cannot be awarded retroactively.

This form may be signed manually or electronically / digitally. Please obtain signatures of all relevant learning partners and provide them with a copy of this agreement.

Student Information

Last Name
First Name

Student #
Email address

Contact Phone Number

Internship Details

Position Title

Company/ Agency Name

Address

Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
End Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

Hours per week
Paid
Unpaid
Supervisor Name

Title

Email Address

Phone Number

*How did you find this opportunity?*

*What tasks will you be responsible for at this internship?*

*How will the tasks you complete at your internship be evaluated?*

*What do you want to gain from this internship? For example, do you hope to explore career possibilities, develop new skills, test theories learned in class, etc.? Please list/describe your objectives.*
Site Supervisor Acknowledgement:

Dear site supervisor,
Thank you for working with our student. Please confirm that you have reviewed and support this internship proposal.

Signature__________________________
Date______________________________

Student Acknowledgement:

With my initials on each line, I acknowledge the following:

___________ In this internship, I will work with a community-engaged company, non-profit, or other organization

___________ I will work approximately 10 hours per week with this organization (~120 hrs total in a semester)

___________ I will maintain a journal of my work experiences and reflections to be shared with my faculty sponsor

___________ Before the end of the term, I will complete and submit a summary paper describing my internship experience and reflecting on sociology themes encountered in my work. The length and scope of the summary paper will be determined by my faculty sponsor

Student Signature
Date

Sponsor Acknowledgement:

Faculty Sponsor Name

Faculty Sponsor Signature
Date