

Psychology Club
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Internships in Psychology*

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- * One of several ways to satisfy the **Application of Knowledge Requirement** for the Psychology B.A.

APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO DEMONSTRATE THE ABILITY TO APPLY KNOWLEDGE IN THEIR CHOSEN AREA OF PSYCHOLOGY THROUGH AN INTERNSHIP AND ITS ACCOMPANYING SEMINAR, OR THROUGH PAST WORK OR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

INTERNSHIPS ARE EXPECTED FOR STUDENTS ENTERING PSYCHOLOGY AS A NEW FIELD OF STUDY, AND FOR STUDENTS EXPLORING A NEW AREA OF PSYCHOLOGY; EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE INTERNSHIP SETTINGS INCLUDE RESEARCH LABORATORIES, CHILD CARE AGENCIES, GROUP HOMES, MENTAL HEALTH AGENCIES, AND COMMUNITY CENTERS WORKING WITH CHILDREN, TEENS AND FAMILIES, OR THE ELDERLY.

THIS REQUIREMENT CAN ALSO BE MET THROUGH DEPARTMENTAL TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS OR THROUGH RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PSYCHOLOGY LABORATORY (or Department Faculty Member).

STUDENTS WITH EXPERIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY-RELATED AREAS MAY ELECT TO APPLY FOR CREDIT THROUGH THE ASSESSMENT OF PRIOR LEARNING OR THEORY SEMINARS, OR INCORPORATE THIS LEARNING INTO A STUDENT-DESIGNED INDEPENDENT STUDY.

Source: Metropolitan State University Undergraduate Catalog
(Text in red was added by Mark Stasson, does not appear in Catalog)

Internships

- The word “Internship” can have different meanings
- In “Professional” Psychology it often refers to a graduate level experience
- As an undergraduate, if you approach an organization you might consider using terms such as “undergraduate intern” (or “volunteer”)

- Internships are great learning experiences
- They provide professional experience
- Many interns are offered jobs
- Students can earn credit for up to 3 internships (with different learning)
- But, internships are not strictly required – Psychology majors have choices (recall earlier list)

Applications of Learning: Make sure you discuss with Advisor

- Individualized Internship (Psyc 350)
- Group Internship (e.g., Psyc 399).
- SDIS (teaching assistant, research assistant, independent research-“thesis”)
- PLA: Get Credit for what you KNOW
- Internships can be paid (job) or unpaid

How to find an Individualized Internship?

- Personal Experience/Contacts
 - The Institute for Community Engagement and Scholarship (ICES) connects to Sites
 - The ICES offers info sessions, postings, individual consultations
- <http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/community/ices/intern/index.html>
- Get the Internship “Packet” (Handbook) online at ICES or 101 Midway
 - Tons of possibilities, for examples see <http://internship.stasson.org/examples>

Sites, the ICES, and Psychology

- The Institute for Community Engagement and Scholarship (ICES) is the connection between Metro State and the Sites
- Credit is for LEARNING (not doing)
- Each Department has an Internship Faculty Liaison who approves the Learning before registration **and** before the final grade is posted.
- See Psych 010 (online schedule) for Liaison Contact and Workshop dates/times for Learning Assessment

Internships and Jobs

- *Internships sometimes lead to jobs
- ***New** Jobs can be Internships

An Internship must consist of NEW Learning ("Old" jobs may fit PLA)

Some students may seek new employment, which can also serve as an Internship

What sort of job might fit an internship?

Some ideas from the classified section:

Housing support specialist
Human Resource Assistant
Social Recreation
Mental Health Worker
Independent living/Life Skills
Recreation/After school activities
Special Ed Assistant
Lab Assistant
Behavioral Case Worker
Program Assistant

Requirements (Summary)

Internship Handbook lists all requirements

<http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/community/ices/intern/squide.html>

- Min. 120 hours for 3-credit internship
- Min. 160 hours for 4-credit internship
- Site Evaluator must have B.A. (at least)
- Complete Psyc 010 (to Document Learning)
- Finish within 6 months ("I" until done)
- "Rolling Registration" – use paper form

Registration

- Group Internship – register online **only AFTER** getting instructor approval
- Individual Internship (internship application **FORM** filled out with site)
- Independent Study (SDIS **FORM** filled out with supervisor)
- PLA: **FORM** with Evaluator
- Require LEAD TIME!!! (**Paper registration**)
- Questions: ask YOUR ADVISOR FIRST (or the listed Psyc 010 instructor)

Summary

- Experience aids career choice and builds contacts
- Internships are one way to get experience
- Thinking of PhD/PsyD, consider research experience (a "must" for PhD)
- Not interested in therapy/treatment, then consider community/social/organizational (or cognitive/development/biological)
- <http://internship.stasson.org>