

Humboldt State University
Internship Policy (9/14/10)

1. Definition

An internship is defined as university-sanctioned academic or career-related work experience. Internships are processes of education which formally integrate the students' academic study with practical experience in cooperating organizations. Through this interaction of study and practical experience, students enhance their academic knowledge, their personal development, and their professional preparation. The teaching faculty and the on-site supervisors share in the educational process of internship. In order to qualify as an internship, the experience must meet the above definition and all of the following criteria:

- A. Carry an intellectual, supervised, pedagogical component;
- B. Guarantee a specific number of hours per unit of academic credit granted that is comparable to other academic courses with a minimum of 45hrs/SCU;
- C. Be based on an Internship Agreement between the faculty member overseeing the internship, the grantor of the internship, and the student.

2. Objectives of the Internship

The aim of the internship program is to provide the student with a comprehensive practical experience in a setting where learning is the primary objective of the experience. To this end, the purposes of the internship are:

- For the student: to complete his/her internship in a controlled and supervised field experience.
- For the University: to sponsor and guide the student and to interpret the experience while the student applies theoretical knowledge to practice.
- For the Agency: to provide a proper setting for the experience as well as professional guidance including supervision, mentoring, and an opportunity to observe and participate in multiple aspects of the program/service..

3. Description of the Internship Placement Process

The student schedules an individual meeting with the faculty member who will oversee the internship. The faculty member must give the student formal approval that the agency they wish to intern with is an approved site.

The faculty member ensures that the student is provided with health and safety information. The student must sign the Release of Liability Form (available at link below) and Medical Authorization Form (attached to this document)

<https://www.humboldt.edu/forms/sites/forms/files/RM%20-%20Release%20of%20Liability.pdf>

When the student and faculty member have made the final agency selection, an Internship Agreement is prepared and signed by the student, the agency representative, and the faculty member.

4. Student Eligibility Requirements

The faculty member will verify that students meet or exceed a minimum GPA of 2.0 at the time of the internship. Students who do not meet this eligibility requirement will **NOT** be permitted to intern.

Notes:

1. Students may present a petition **which must be approved by the faculty member and dean** if they are unable to meet the above eligibility requirement.
2. International students must obtain appropriate work visa from Office of International Programs in advance of internship

5. Agency Eligibility Requirements

To ensure appropriate internship placement, the agency must meet the following requirements:

- A. Be approved by student's Faculty Member overseeing the internship
 - B. Have a site visit performed by Faculty Member overseeing the internship and complete Site Visit Checklist
 - C. Be judged by the Faculty Member as competent in the delivery of programs and/or services
 - D. Be a new work setting and/or experience with substantially different job responsibilities than previous and/or current employment
 - E. Provide an Intern supervisor who the Faculty Member determines is qualified
 - F. Be willing to participate in the Intern evaluation process
 - G. Be within 100 miles of Humboldt State University (see item #6 for exceptions)
 - H. Provide resources necessary to support intern in the satisfactory completion of his or her goals and objectives, and the completion of assigned duties/tasks (e.g., equipment, materials, work space)
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6. Location of Agency

For university faculty to provide adequate supervision to Interns, Interns must select agencies within a 100-mile radius of the University. Agencies outside the 100-mile radius will be considered **only** if the student submits a petition indicating extenuating circumstances and strong rationale.

Faculty will consider a waiver of the agency location policy under the following criteria:

- A. Appropriate sites in the local area are not available
- B. Demonstrated unique opportunity or need

If a waiver is granted, the reason will be documented on the Internship Agreement and a Site Visit Checklist will be completed by the Supervisor.

7. Insurance

Agencies are required to provide Workers Compensation and liability insurance as would be provided for any other staff member or volunteer. The Faculty member must work with the Office of Contracts, Procurement, and Risk Management to ensure sufficient coverage.

8. Required Documentation Retention

Departments are required to keep for three years the following documents for all internships:

- A. Internship Agreement
- B. Site Visit Checklist
- C. Release of Liability Form
- D. Medical Authorization Form**
- E. Student Time Log

9. Program-Specific Policy

An academic department may implement a program-specific internship policy. The policy must include, at a minimum, the above guidance, and it must be published in the Catalog.

Additional areas addressed in program-specific internship policies may include:

- A. Whether and in what way internships are required for a degree in a given major;
- B. Limits on the repetition of internships;
- C. Guidelines for transfer of internship units earned elsewhere and the way in which they satisfy major unit and course requirements;
- D. The requirements necessary to satisfy more than one internship under the same course number;
- E. The number of internship units permitted in a major;
- F. The permissibility or impermissibility of remuneration for internships;
- G. Grading options applicable to internships;
- H. Special requirements for internships.