Graduate Kinesiology
Internship Description:

An internship experience allows the student an opportunity to bridge theory and practice. It is a learning experience that permits the student to apply knowledge acquired in the academic classroom within the professional setting. Such experiential learning supplements academic theory and helps the student to identify personal strengths and guides her/him into specialized fields within the profession (marketing, media relations, financial management, etc.). Perhaps equally as important is the chance for the student to begin to establish the professional network so essential for access to, and movement within, the profession.

Most internship placements are unpaid positions offered by sport agencies in a learning partnership with the College. On occasion, the agency may provide compensation but this is not the standard in the field. Because the time spent is not compensated, federal labor statutes require that a student be officially enrolled in an academic class (Kinesiology 295 – see below) to receive the “internship” waiver from aforementioned labor statutes.

Graduate Kinesiology Internship Class

The graduate internship class is Kinesiology 295. Minimum requirements are: 1) selection of the student for an internship by a local sport agency of choice;* 2) an approved academic reading list to supplement the internship experience (approval by assigned faculty instructor); 3) a minimum of 120 hours on-site at the sport agency;** 4) an official supervisor/mentor at the sport agency with regular meetings to review internship progress; 5) attendance at periodic class sessions/progress meetings with the KINES 295 instructor; 6) a weekly log of work responsibilities and learning experiences; 7) a final paper summarizing the experience and relating it to the reading and past academic learning (this 20-30 page paper must be of academic quality utilizing APA guidelines).

Notes:

*The student may personally research internship opportunities and interview for any opportunity that furthers the student’s professional aspirations in the field. Optionally, the student may seek assistance from Kinesiology faculty to identify internship opportunities. In most cases, the student must still interview for such an opportunity and be selected by the agency. No guarantee is made by the faculty that an opportunity leads directly to an internship.
**The agency and the student are responsible for establishing work schedule and duration of the internship. The College is involved only to the extent of the “minimum hourly on-site requirement”. 
Graduate Kinesiology Internship Guidelines

Internship Objectives
  1. To allow the student to compare/contrast academic knowledge with industry application.
  2. To allow the student opportunities to apply knowledge and skill acquired in the academic setting.
  3. To provide the student with sufficient circumstances to assess personal aptitude for the sport management field.
  4. To allow the sport agency to assist the College in preparation of appropriate student skills for access to, and success in, the field.
  5. To increase student opportunity for skill development through association with industry professionals and mentors.
  6. To develop professional networks for the student.
  7. To allow the student to complete his/her professional preparation program in a controlled and supervised field experience.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of the internship the student:

  1. Will know varying methods of applying skills and knowledge acquired in the classroom.
  2. Will understand the professional requirements for access to and success in the field.
  3. Will appreciate the need for flexibility and creativity in the application of knowledge.
  4. Will understand the adjustments in leadership/supervision required by different circumstances and work groups.
  5. Will know the work ethic and skills required for success in the field.
  6. Will have initiated a professional network.
  7. Will have applied basic concepts of management and administration.

College/Instructor Responsibility

  1. Provide academic guidance and internship supervision through the Kinesiology 295 class/instructor
  2. Assess/approve student readiness for the internship placement.
  3. Provide leads for possible internship opportunities through College professional connections if requested.
  4. Review/approve internship placements and adherence to College guidelines.
  5. Recommend academic readings to supplement the practical experience.
  6. Through periodic Kinesiology class meetings, provide support and mentoring to the student(s).
  7. Provide regular opportunity for student/faculty review of the internship.
  8. If possible, meet with agency supervisor and student before (orientation), during (progress) and following completion (evaluation) of the internship.
  9. Provide guidance on required final paper summarizing the internship paper.
 10. Read/grade the paper upon completion and prepare a final student grade for the class.
Graduate Kinesiology Internship Guidelines

Student Responsibility

1. Make sure that you are fully prepared for the internship relative to academic preparation.
2. Commit to the minimum hours required to complete an internship.
3. Research internship opportunities and apply for those you find interesting and for which you feel adequately prepared.
4. Discuss these opportunities and others with the instructor for the course.
5. Interview as necessary to secure the internship.
6. Once selected, become familiar with all policies and procedures of the sport agency.
7. Enroll in the Kinesiology 295 internship class.
8. Discuss and agree upon specific schedule with the supervising agency. This must meet at least the College minimum requirements.
9. Approach the internship with a positive attitude, a strong work ethic and a willingness to learn.
10. Set mutually agreeable goals with the agency supervisor and review these with the course instructor.
11. With guidance from the instructor, select an appropriate reading list to supplement the practical experience.
12. Prepare for and attend meetings as established by the agency mentor and meet periodically with the course instructor.
13. Keep a weekly journal documenting experiences, lessons learned and overall observations about your specific job and the sport agency.
14. Write the final paper summarizing the experience with references to the reading as appropriate.
15. Participate in the final evaluation with the instructor and agency mentor if possible.

Recommended Sport Agency Mentor Responsibility

1. If feasible, prepare a formal job description for the internship.
2. Commit to mentoring the student and to a willingness to support his/her learning opportunities.
3. Provide education and guidance on policies and procedures of the agency.
4. Set mutually agreeable goals with each intern based upon the job description and the learning outcomes for the internship class.
5. Address and resolve questions or concerns brought to you by your intern (s).
6. Prepare for and lead regular status meetings with the intern (s).
7. Outline the course of work, or project, for the intern’s personal learning agreement.
8. Review each intern’s weekly journal and use it as a tool to guide and grow their learning experiences and career opportunities.
9. Consult regularly with the SMC instructor for the internship course.
10. Make yourself available to consult with the intern as required during the course of the internship.
11. If possible, participate in the initial, mid-point and final evaluation with the student and SMC faculty mentor.
12. Provide resources necessary to support the intern in the satisfactory completion of goals (work station, equipment, supplies, etc.).