

Internship Overview:

Internships are working experiences that students participate in order to gain professional skills and familiarities. Internships are structured as symbiotic learning experiences that blend appropriate theory and methods into real-world applications. A valid experience for economics majors is an internship or co-op that requires the usage of skills and knowledge obtained from prior economics courses. Positions should be similar to an entry-level position that these students would obtain upon graduation. As interns, economics majors can perform a wide variety of functions. Typically, their main responsibility is helping organizations to better understand the economic and financial factors impacting the organization.

Students majoring or minoring in Economics have the option of earning academic credit for an approved internship experience. Academic credit is earned at the rate of one credit hour for each 50 hours worked. Note that ECO 398 does not count toward either the Economics major or minor.

The requirements for applying for internship credit through *ECO 398 Professional Practice: Internship in Economic Research* are:

- Status as an Economics major or minor
- Cumulative GPA of at least 2.2
- 50 hours of academic credit completed by the time of application
- A completed application form
- One-page (single-spaced; one-inch margins) essay describing the work experience for which you wish to receive internship credit, and discussing how you plan to apply the skills and knowledge from economics courses to the internship.

To receive permission to enroll in ECO 398, a student must first submit a completed application form to the Economics Office and receive the approval of the Department's Professional Practice Coordinator.

To receive ECO 398 academic credit, the application and approval process must be completed **before** the internship begins. Upon completion of the internship, a completed internship performance evaluation form must be submitted directly from a supervisor and a 2-page (single-spaced; one-inch margins) summary covering:

- The intended objectives of this internship
- The specific tasks or activities that were assigned and a description of your responsibilities. You must also discuss how you have applied skills and knowledge acquired from economics courses to accomplish each project.
- A general reflection on the productivity of undertaking the internship

Successful applicants will complete an internship or professional practice experience that requires the use of decision-making and critical-thinking skills, and most importantly, the relevance of this internship toward applying economic knowledge.