

What is an Academic Internship?

Academic Internships are any type of internship for which a student receives course credit. The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) defines internships as “as a form of experiential learning that integrates knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skills development in a professional workplace setting (across in-person, remote, or hybrid modalities).” Academic Internships can be developed in a variety of ways and can encompass the following:

- Engage students in work at for-profit business, nonprofit organization or government entity
- May be paid or unpaid positions
- Take place on-campus, through an SPF offered position, or at an external employer/organization.
- May or may not include internship preparation/professional development coursework

Resources for Creating an Academic Internship Course

- The Center for Community Based Learning (CCBL) can assist faculty with course creation, community partner connections, and logistics
- Campus Policy on [Academic Internships](#)
- [Course Numbering Policy](#) (Typically offered with the following course numbers: 482, 582, 682; and the word “intern” or “internship” in the course title)

Models / Structures of Academic Internship Courses

Academic internships courses can be structured in different ways to meet course goals and department/faculty/student needs. An academic internship course can include any of the following components:

- A prerequisite internship prep course
- Repeatable for credit (students can take internship class as many times as they want)
- Weekly meeting with course content
- Regular one-on-one check-ins between student and faculty
- Requirement for student to find an internship placement prior to signing up for class
- Requirement of degree or certificate program
- Any grading mode: Mandatory CR/NC (most common), Optional Grade Basis, or Mandatory Letter Grade
- Course classifications vary. Common classifications include:
 - C38 or C78, or
 - A combination of Seminar (C5) and Tutorial (C78) sections

See page 2 for examples of Academic Internship courses at Cal Poly Humboldt. For more information and support on Academic Internships please contact CCBL staff at ccbl@humboldt.edu.

Course Examples

BIOL 482 - Supervised Internship - (Dr. Jianmin Zhong in AY 24-25)

Catalog Description: Students implement the theory and practice of their major by working for a public agency or private firm/organization.

Developed by Dr. Jianmin Zhong, with CCBL, to support students in the Pre-Med and Pre-PA tracks. Offered every fall, spring, & summer semester, students rotate shadowing medical professionals. Summer offering is a paid intensive internship experience that includes a weekly course and presentations on their experiences. Summer offering is paid through grant funding.

Units	1-12	Weekly	Tutorial hrs, TBD
Course Classification	C-78	Grading Mode	Optional Grade Basis
Permission to enroll	Instructor Consent Required	Prerequisites	N/A

PSCI 482 - Internship - (Kelly Fortner in AY 24-25)

Catalog Description: Field observation; placement in a public or private nonprofit agency.

Counts as one of three options that political science majors can take as part of the experiential learning requirement of their major and entails a 90 hour internship with weekly class meetings focused on career readiness activities and internship check-ins. This course is capped at 10 students and students from other majors can enroll.

Units	3	Weekly	Tutorial hrs, TBD
Course Classification	C-78	Grading Mode	Mandatory Letter Grade
Permission to enroll	Instructor Consent Required	Prerequisites	N/A

REC 482 - Internship in Recreation - (Genevieve Marchand in AY 24-25)

Catalog Description: Supervised experience. Apply academic understanding to a functioning recreational agency.

For over 15 years, this course has incorporated professional hands-on experience with student reflection through class meetings and assignments. Required for the recreation administration major. Required prerequisite course, REC 455 *Internship and Career Preparation Workshop*, which supports students with finding internships and career preparation such as resume building, interview prep and e-portfolio development.

Units	1-6	Weekly	Supervision hrs, TBD
Course Classification	S-36	Grading Mode	Mandatory CR/NC
Permission to enroll	No Special Consent Required	Prerequisites	REC 100 , REC 210, REC 220, REC 302, REC 320, REC 420, REC 455; senior standing; Rec Admin majors.