USM Fall 2015 Internships Survey Results

Sent to students who completed an academic internship in fall 2015

This was an informally conducted survey and was not conducted using statistical research methods or a simple random sample. Please treat the information as exploratory research.

Demographics of the 39 Respondents:

A. Internship Experience and Resources

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements about your internship:

- There were resources, equipment and facilities provided by the host that supported my learning objectives and goals.
- I received routine feedback from an experienced supervisor.
- I had regular supervision by a professional with expertise and a professional background in the field.
- I gained practical skills that are transferable to other employment settings.
**B. Internship Learning Outcomes**

An internship is meant to help with your growth and preparedness for a professional setting. Please indicate how much this internship contributed to your growth in each skill area:

- Technical, field-specific skills
- Ethical Sensitivity
- Creativity and Innovation
- Professional Appearance and Demeanor
- Ability to Work Independently
- Ability to Work with Others
- Written Communication
- Verbal Communication

Please indicate the choice which best describes your agreement or disagreement with each statement. This internship helped me to...

- ...make networking connections that may help me find a job in the future."
- ...gain practical skills I will use in the work place."
- ...gain a clearer idea of my professional goals.
C. Job Offers

Were you, or do you believe you will be offered a job at your internship site?

- Yes: 18
- Maybe: 4
- No: 14
- Other: 2

D. Selected Quotes

“I have gained many new skills through this internship experience and have also polished off some skills that I had that may have needed work. Having a positive environment really helped with this experience.” –Joshua Jacques, Intern at IDEXX, fall 2015

“I was able to take objectives and information learned in the classroom and apply it in a working environment. By working with a professional in the field, I was able to apply and learn more skills. My technical and environmental writing has improved as well as my data collection methods.” –Gretchen Anderson, Intern at South Portland Water Protection Resource Department, fall 2015

“My internship was really great. I was able to intern in the busy months of water sampling and dive into testing water. I was also able to gain a job through my internship and will continue to work for them as I gain knowledge and experience.” –Hannah Baker, Intern at A & L Laboratory, fall 2015

“I loved interning in this setting - It definitely gave me stronger writing skills and ultimately got me hired full time. I now have a salaried position doing a job I love and feel confident and supported in!” –Lexi, Intern at The Committee for Ranked Choice Voting, fall 2015

“I was given fantastic opportunities to "jump right in" and I was assigned foster care Home Study applicants to interview and write up a narrative and recommendation for licensing. It seemed a bit overwhelming at first, but after a couple of interviews and follow-up supervision meetings, I feel I gained a great deal of learning that I would not have been able to do in other settings.” –Roberta Doe, Intern at DHHS, fall 2015
“I learned many different skills from the classroom that I was able to put forth at my internship. The most significant class for this was a class that is no longer offered at the university which was ECG Interpretation. This class opened up my eyes in the cardiology world and significantly helped me in this internship.” –Timothy Heaton, Intern at Maine Medical Center, fall 2015

“I have been exposed to different groups of people which has challenged my own biases and values. I have had the opportunity to implement a variety of assessments and interventions that were learned in previous courses. I had the opportunity to apply the strengths based perspective and embody many of the core values of the social work profession.” –Colton Rallo, Intern at the Frannie Peabody Center, fall 2015

“It has helped me work with a population that I was at first hesitant to work with. It helped me understand that even if I may have biases with individuals I can still put them aside to work with clients.” –Brittany Young, Intern at Maine Correctional Center, fall 2015

“The classroom is great but skills learned in the field are what really count. Working for MCC taught me technical job skills, communication and teamwork skills, and general life skills on how to be a better person on and off the clock. Life is an adventure, your job should be too so get out there and experience it first-hand.” –Heidi Wueste, Intern at Maine Conservation Corps, fall 2015

“My internship experience has helped me to integrate the knowledge I learned in my mass communication, graphic design and public relations courses in a real world professional setting. I work closely with the public affairs team to produce news briefs and social media content in a timely, professional and efficient manner. I am currently working on 6 more news briefs that will soon be published on the website.” –Julia, Intern at the USM Public Affairs Office, fall 2015

“My internship at Margaret Murphy Center was amazing. I had lots of hands on experience in the field working with children who have developmental disabilities. I had daily opportunities for communication and supervision with both my case managers. I was hired on immediately and continued to work there until after graduation. One of the selling points on my application to graduate school and in my interview was my knowledge and experience from MMCC.” –Megan Verrill, Intern at Margaret Murphy Center for Children, fall 2015

“The positive learning environment [my supervisor] created allowed me to go through tremendous growth. The most important aspect of my internship was practicing something that I am not comfortable doing, being at the center of attention and speaking in front of groups. This is an essential tool I will need to facilitate group therapy, very common in therapeutic recreation.” –Rebecca Merritt, Intern at St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center, fall 2015

“Having a professional alternative to taking courses proved valuable and practical as I continued my college career and learned how to develop myself professionally. I would recommend an internship to all students who are trying to find their strengths and build weaknesses.” –Thomas Fitzgerald, Intern at The Free Press, fall 2015