

Internships are designed to expand the depth and breadth of academic learning for student's particular areas of study structured to incorporate academic, professional, and personal skill development. It is an opportunity for students to receive experience in applying theories learned in the classroom to a real-world setting. An internship is an opportunity to not only use and develop industry-related knowledge and skills, but also to enhance some of the skills that are transferrable to any professional work setting.

A successful internship can give students valuable information in making decisions about the direction of future academic studies and employment. The goals are:

- Learn and develop practical skills
- Gain first hand understanding of the inner workings of an organization
- Make a positive contribution to the organization
- Solve problems by taking initiative and using creativity
- Clarify career goals
- Observe and learn ethics at work
- Observe and work with professionals in the field

Effective supervision throughout the entire internship process makes for a more satisfactory experience for the student and company. Providing an intern with feedback about his or her performance and skill set provides a great learning opportunity for the student. All students are required to submit self-evaluation in regards to their internship performance and degree of learning.

Evaluation of Student Internship Experience: Feedback begins on the first day and continues throughout the entire internship. The following areas should be considered:

- What were the intern's best skills?
- What areas need improvement?
- Did the intern adapt to employer culture?

Student Evaluation of Employer Experience: Feedback can help determine ways to improve internship procedures. The following should be considered:

- What new skills did you learn?
- Did you receive consistent feedback throughout the internship?
- Was the Intern Supervisor of help during the internship?
- What would you add or change to improve the internship experience?