
Seattle Pacific University
Department of Psychology
Internship PSY 4940

The course, PSY 4940 Internship in Psychology, is designed to integrate vocational experience with academic theory. Learned concepts and methods are applied in a psychological setting while under the direction of faculty and on-site supervisors. As an intern, the student is able to develop practical skills in psychology and confidence working in the professional world, while serving the community, exploring career options in psychology, and earning credits toward a psychology major. Internship experiences include psychological work in counseling organizations, social services, educational settings, and evaluation research programs. Psychology internships not only help students to begin career-related work experience prior to graduation, they also assist students who choose to apply for graduate programs in psychology.

What is the best tip for making the process of securing an internship as stress-free as possible?

Plan! Don't wait until the last minute to investigate internship possibilities. You need to have your learning contract signed before you can register! It takes time to determine the site that will best fit your vocational interests, your travel limitations, or your financial needs. It takes time to meet with the necessary people to secure an internship. They have busy schedules and may have difficulty fitting in an appointment with you at the last minute. And internships can serve as a stepping stone for future educational and vocational pursuits. You want to make a good impression during those initial interviews, right? The internship can be an opportunity to expand your training in psychology in the area in which you have the greatest interest. Take the time and energy to make the most of it.

What else is required for internship credits besides on-site experiences?

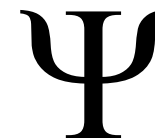
You will be required to attend twice-monthly on-campus meetings, keep a log and journal of experiences, read and summarize relevant articles, and write a brief final reflection paper.

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DEPARTMENT OF
PSYCHOLOGY
INTERNSHIP

PSY 4940



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PSY 4940
Psychology Internship:
Questions & Answers

What requirements must I meet in order to do an internship?

- (1) You must be a Psychology major.
- (2) You must be a Junior or Senior.
- (3) You must have finished at least 1 quarter (12 units) as a matriculated student at SPU.

Keep in mind as well that the internship is designed to expand your understanding of previous coursework in psychology. So, for example, if you're thinking about a placement serving the mentally ill, you should ideally have completed PSY 4460 Abnormal Behavior. You need to have a learning contract signed in order to register!

What requirements does my internship site need to meet for me to earn college credit?

- (1) The internship must involve application of psychological principles (e.g., from abnormal, social, developmental, organizational psychology) in a community setting.
- (2) Intern work must be overseen by an on-site supervisor with a Masters degree in a relevant psychological field (or comparable expertise).
- (3) The supervisor must agree to meet with you for 30 minutes per week and provide a formal final evaluation of your work.
- (4) The site must provide at least 50 hours of experiential learning total.

Can I earn money while completing a psychology internship?

Yes, this is a possibility. Not all sites offer a stipend for interns, but some do.

Can I turn my present job into a psychology internship experience?

Yes, this is also a possibility, if basic internship requirements are met. You should first discuss this with the Internship Director, Dr. Marcia Webb. Please note that you may not receive credit retroactively for work already completed.

How many credits can I earn as an intern?

You may earn 1-5 credits of psychology internship per quarter, depending on the number of hours at your intern site.

50 hours	= 1-2 credits
75 hours	= 3 credits
100 hours	= 4 credits
125 hours	= 5 credits

So how do I set up an internship for myself?

Step #1: Please pick up a list of (representative) possible sites from the table outside in the middle of Marston Hall 1 or from Dr. Webb (or see the list posted online on the Psychology Department website under "Internships").

Step #2: Obtain a Psychology Learning Contract from the table in the middle of Marston Hall 1, or from Dr. Webb. This learning contract is not the same as the generic contract from the Career Center. Think about what you would like to learn and experience (i.e., "Learning Objectives and "Learning Activities"). You may contact Dr. Webb with questions about designing your internship experience.

Step #3: Contact potential sites to apply for an internship position. Students usually find a suitable internship, but if you have contacted several internship sites and are still having difficulty securing an internship you may want to schedule an appointment with a career counselor by calling 206.281.2485.

Step #4: Once you have a site, meet with the your supervisor at the site. At this meeting you and your supervisor should discuss and agree upon your Learning Objectives and Learning Activities, which you will describe in your learning contract. Both you and your on-site supervisor must sign the contract.

Step #5: Submit the Learning Contract to Dr. Webb for her review and signature. After she signs it, bring it to SAS so they may enroll you in class. You need all signatures by the end of the first week of the quarter, and you need to attend the first internship class.

But what if my situation is unique? For example, what if I want to do my internship away from Seattle, or if I have other special circumstances?

On occasion, students do have unique circumstances with internships. These situations are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Email Dr. Webb and discuss your situation with her.

Please start the process of searching for and securing an internship early. Then look forward to investing yourself in a new opportunity to learn and serve!