

**TAVIS SMILEY SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
INTERNSHIP -COMMUNICATION 430**

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The integration of process and content acquisition through application and practice in real-life situations; structured part-time or full-time internships. Three hours of lecture per week. Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing and a minimum of 12 semester credit hours earned in a field of concentration in the Department.

Goals of Internships

Communication internships are designed to benefit both students and employers. Students receive practical experience in a communication-related career, while employers benefit from their skills and assistance, and may evaluate first-hand possible future employees.

Student Eligibility and Expectations

Students must enroll in CM 430 - Internship to receive academic credit (3) for the internship. Eligibility criteria include:

- Students must have 75 hours (junior or senior) of undergraduate credit completed toward one's degree.
- Students must have a minimum 2.3 GPA overall and 2.5 for major.
- Students must have been enrolled at TSU for at least one semester prior to enrolling in an internship.
- Transfer students must have completed a minimum of 12 hours Communication course work at TSU prior to enrolling in an internship.
- Students seeking internships at sites that are not already posted by the Communications Department will be asked to present for approval a job description obtained from the employer to the Communication Internship Coordinator.

Students qualifying for the internship program are expected to meet high standards of personal conduct and professional ethics, as well as to maintain attention to punctuality, deadlines and cooperation with others. In short, students are expected to work hard and become an asset to the organization they are serving. For grading purposes, students must complete a Portfolio which will include: cover letter to the internship agency, resume, a daily or weekly log of their activities, time sheet, write a summary paper of their overall assessment of their experience, complete a self evaluation and a report on a special project (if assigned) during the internship. Three recommendation letters must be included, one from the internship supervisor. The portfolios are due one week prior to the end of the semester or immediately after their last official day of their internship and the completion of a minimum of 100 hours. Class participation and attendance is required.

Employer Eligibility and Expectations

The employer must meet the following criteria before an internship may be approved:

- The employer must offer an opportunity for the intern to apply, practice and develop skills and knowledge emphasized in one or all of the Communication major's four concentrations, Speech (intercultural, organizational), Journalism (print, broadcast), Radio, Television and Film and Entertainment.
- The employer must provide a minimum of 100 substantial working hours. Typically, this means work in mass media, public relations, advertising, production studios, teaching, employee training and development, or human resources fields. Employment staffing, event planning, domestic and international commerce,

corporate sales positions, staff or management position that utilizes communication skills will be accepted for class credit.

- The Department encourages students to seek positions where they will have a professional mentor and networking opportunities in the communication field. The supervisor is asked to assign a special project, if possible, to the student for completion. The Employer must supervise the student and work with TSU-Tavis Smiley School of Communication Internship Coordinator in reporting the student's progress and development on the job.
- The conditions of an internship should be established with the student before he or she reports. These include the nature of the internship, supervisory arrangements, specific responsibilities of the intern, compensation (if any), and work schedules. It is expected that employers will provide a safe environment in which students can work and the materials that students need to complete their assignments. Once the internship begins, employers should review the student's work with them regularly and treat them as professionals. The supervisor must also complete the employee's evaluation form, due one week before the last day of internship or classes.

Duration, Work Hours and Academic Credit for Internships

Internships generally coincide with one of TSU's academic terms, with the internship beginning anytime before or during the CM 430 class instruction period and ending the last week of classes, for a total duration of 10-12 weeks during Fall and Spring semesters and six-eight weeks during Summer term. Students must work a **minimum of ten hours per week, a total of 100 hours**. Beyond this, the number of hours per week a student works is dependent on the needs of the employer and the decision of the student.

Registration for Internships

Students must apply to the Communication School's Student Service Coordinator to obtain approval to pursue an internship. This process involves an application, a screening for GPA, academic standing, and registration. If accepted and the student has obtained an internship he/she must get approval of job and job description for internships not already approved. If the job is approved for Communication Internship credit (3 credits), students must enroll in CM 430. An Agency Verification/Internship Agreement form must be completed before the beginning of the work program and before the student can get credit for the internship.

Guidelines

Submit a completed typed application, resume, copy of transcript, three letters of recommendation and a three page, doubled spaced essay on "Why an Internship is Important to Career Growth" to the Tavis Smiley School of Communication, MLK 216.

Internship Credit for Current Employment

Students may receive internship credit for their current employment if the nature of their work meets the previously stated criteria. Current employment evaluation must be approved before credit is given. However, the coordinator may request that you continue with your employment but make a departmental or area change for your internship. For example, if the student works for a radio station in promotions, it will be suggested that the student apply for an internship position in production, sales, or broadcast. Thereby completing your internship with the same agency of employment and also giving you additional exposure and skills. You must enroll in CM430. Internship credit can NOT be granted retroactively for past work.

Grading

Grades are determined by CM 430 class attendance, participation, oral presentations and by the employer's evaluation form and the students Portfolio. Student's who receive an "F" in an internship will have to re-enroll in the course. All Internships should be completed within the

semester enrolled in CM 430. An "I" will only be given and approved for some unforeseen timeline problem on the part of either the student or the employer. First session summer School enrollment may receive an "I" until completion of internship during the second summer session of the same year.

Important Deadlines

Departmental Approval: Students are strongly encouraged to obtain departmental approval and complete the necessary enrollment paperwork as soon as possible.

Application deadlines: Summer Semester- last working day in April, Fall Semester-last working day in June, Spring Semester-last working day in October

Deadline for grading: The employer's evaluation form , the student's written assessment and the Portfolio are due no later than **one week before** the last day of the semester for the fall, spring and summer enrollment period.

Additional Questions? Contact the Communication School Internship Coordinator, Ms. Vanya Gamble, Phone: 713-313-6889, fax: 713-313-7259

GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN SUMMARY OF INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Tavis Smiley School of Communication (TSSOC) major interns are required to document their internship experience through (1) a daily or weekly log of activities, (2) a 2-3 page typed summary of "My Internship Experience" (3) a typed report on assigned special project, along with examples, DVD's, CD's or pictures. These, along with other Portfolio requirements and your supervisor's evaluation of your work, class attendance and participation will determine your grade.

Format: Please turn in a small 3-ring notebook with your name, typed pages, pages in plastic slipcovers with a professional look. Supervisor's evaluations should be sent to me directly by your supervisor to: Vanya Gamble, Texas Southern University, Tavis Smiley School of Communication, 3100 Cleburne, Houston, Texas 77004, **emailed** to gamblevw@tsu.edu or **faxed** (713-313-7259).

The Activity Log is a bulleted list of what you did each day and/or week on the job. List each specific task, for example:

- September 1st week - worked with supervisor on learning new editing software. Assisted in editing video.
- September 2nd week - went on location with station's reporters. Learning to write news stories.
- September 3rd week - attended meeting on preparing story line follow-ups. (etc.)

The Written summary is a subjective analysis of your experience. Give your opinion and write in first-person about what you learned and what you found most and least valuable. The following are suggested as some of the areas you may wish to discuss in your report.

Activities

Summarize what you spent most of your time on - major projects and tasks. Did you gain any new skills?

Were your assignments substantive and meaningful?

Were you exposed to a range of activities?

Were there any skills you feel you need to brush up on to perform in this career field?