



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

MASTER'S FIELD PRACTICUM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Overview

An internship is an excellent way to investigate career possibilities and expand your knowledge of all the careers available in the criminology and criminal justice fields. Although students may choose to complete the requirements necessary to earn a minor or second major in another department or program, the internship option is strongly encouraged. The internship program gives students the opportunity to gain invaluable work experience and skills (making them more valuable in a competitive job market) while earning academic credit.

- Current employment may not be used as your internship
- **Full-time internships** are available for distance learning students and on-campus students
- **Part-time internships** are available **only** to distance learning students
- Internships for academic credit can only be completed **once** through the College of Criminology
- Students may intern in any city or state within the United States for a criminology or criminal justice affiliated agency. International placements are not permitted.
- It is the responsibility of the intern to verify agency contact information prior to submitting an application
- All internships for academic credit **require approval** by the internship director prior to enrollment, but we are always open to discussing possibilities! If you have an idea, run it by the internship director.
- Internships must be either full-time (40 hours a week) or part-time (20 hours a week) for the entire semester in which you are enrolled.
- The internship length aligns with the semesters. For accurate dates, please visit the Extended Academic Calendar on the Registrar's website.
- Financial aid will apply to your internship for academic credit, as you will be enrolled in a course
- Upon successful completion of the program:
 - Full-time on campus students earn 9 credit hours of electives
 - Part-time distance learning students earn 3 credit hours of electives
 - Full-time distance learning students earn 6 credit hours of electives
- The internship is graded on a pass/fail (S/U) basis, thus the internship course will not increase a student's GPA

- It is most helpful for career goals if a student chooses to complete an internship at an agency they are interested in working at after graduation. Students should consider timing to graduation, location, and type of work when making an internship selection
- Internships in the government or non-profit areas are typically unpaid, however, they provide opportunities to gain skills and to network with potential employers
- For on campus students, there will be a mandatory internship orientation during the finals week prior to the start of your internship. Distance learners will receive a PowerPoint
- In addition to the work performed at the internship site, students are required to complete academic assignments in the course as well. These include, but are not limited to: weekly journal entries, supervisor and self-evaluations, and special topics assignments focused on career development. All course assignments may be submitted electronically via Blackboard or email

Eligibility

Students must meet the following requirements to qualify for the program:

- Criminology master's student
- Complete the five core courses with a grade of C or better:
 - On campus: CCJ 5109, CCJ 5285, CCJ 5606, CCJ 5705, CCJ 5706
 - Distance learning: CCJ 5078, CCJ 5285, CCJ 5606, CCJ 5705, CCJ 5706
- Minimum FSU GPA of 3.0

Registration

To participate in an internship, you must complete the following.

- Meet all eligibility requirements (see above)
- Decide what area of the field you are interested in or which specific agency you would like to intern with
- Meet application deadline
- Register for CCJ 5945 (Full-time Internship) or CCJ 5946 (part-time Internship)
- Attend a mandatory orientation session

Scholarship

There are several scholarships available to students who do an internship for academic credit, including a few specifically for students going to Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. Please go to the [website](#) for more information about scholarships including deadlines and application information. Note: Please note that the scholarship applications are due the year before you would like to intern so plan accordingly

Deadlines

- Spring: November 1
- Summer: March 1
- Fall: June 1

Note: Please remember that agencies may have their own separate application and deadlines.

Employers

The employers are a wide variety of agencies and organizations. Past participating organizations have included local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies as well as legal firms, private security services, and drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers. We ask employers to provide interns with a well-rounded view of an agency by assigning them to a variety of projects across the agency. You can intern with any agency regardless of geographic location. Please come in to discuss options with the internship director.

Agency Requirements

Requirements vary from agency to agency. Be prepared to face interviews, psychological exams, physicals, polygraphs, background investigations, and drug screenings. Each agency will determine whether you pass or fail their required tests. Since interns are located in a multitude of locations, most of the communication between the faculty and interns is conducted electronically, via e-mail and web-based instruction.