

Internships in Criminal Justice and Sociology

The Department of Sociology offers two internship courses. These six-credit courses require students to complete 140 hours of professional work experience (10-12 hours per week) in a criminal justice, human services, or social services agency. The fieldwork is complemented by an academic workload of books, papers, exams, and class discussions equivalent to the demands of an upper-level three-credit course.

There are many advantages to doing an internship. Students are able to integrate academic learning with workplace experience, investigate careers to pursue upon graduation, develop marketable skills, network with others pursuing careers in similar fields, make professional connections, and build a resume that looks more impressive to future employers and graduate programs.

The department's internship coordinator assists students in finding placements related to their professional and academic interests. The department maintains lists of Boston-area agencies that offer positions or have partnered with our program. Alternately, students are welcome to secure their own opportunities in consultation with the internship coordinator. Most positions are unpaid, but students are welcome to accept payment.

Because it can take several weeks to confirm a position, students should begin their search approximately four months before the beginning of the class. Students commonly apply for internships by submitting a resume and cover letter to agencies which interest them. Students are encouraged to interview with a few different agencies before choosing the option that best matches their personal priorities and availability.

The internship courses are designed to be taken during a student's final semester of study. Registration is therefore restricted to students who have completed 75 or more credits. Students also must have completed Methods of Research (SOCIOLOG 202), Statistics (SOCIOLOG 350 or 352), a theory course (SOCIOLOG 201 or 262), and additional core courses in the major prior to enrolling in the class.

SOCIOLOG 460 – INTERNSHIP: SOCIOLOGY IN THE CITY

This course focuses on social causes of human difficulties, multicultural issues, the urban context, treatment options, and ethics. Students use a sociological lens to examine social inequality on the ground. Positions typically involve students in direct service to a vulnerable population, either as individuals, groups, or communities. Other students may secure positions in agencies related

to policy-making, advocacy, social justice, or community organizing.

SOCIOLOG 461 – INTERNSHIP IN LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

This course provides an historical and sociological analysis of the criminal justice system, focusing on topics such as crime causation, the bail system, justice proceedings, sentencing, corrections, reentry, victims, criminal law, race, and the social impacts of crime. Students secure internships in police departments, correctional facilities, probation offices, and human service agencies that are connected to the criminal justice system.

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT:

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