

SOCIOLOGY INTERNSHIP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a sociology internship?

A sociology internship is an opportunity for you to get applied experience working in a community organization, governmental agency, or non-profit. Sociology internships provide you with an opportunity to test out a career you are interested in, a way to build experience for graduate school applications, and an overall resume builder. Did you know that internships are the second leading reason (behind networks) why people get jobs?

Can I do an internship in my current place of employment or my current student job?

No. In order to be a novel learning experience and achieve the goals listed above, students may only undertake internships with organizations that they are not currently working for.

Can I do an internship in a job at VCU?

Maybe. If you can find a position outside of the Sociology Department and make the case that it is beneficial for your professional development, it may be possible. Teaching assistant positions will *not* be approved for internships. As with all other positions, the final say on whether a position is or is not acceptable for internship credit is at the discretion of the internship coordinator.

Where can I do a sociology internship?

You can do a sociology internship almost anywhere, excluding a student's current place of employment (site must be approved by internship coordinator). Internships are intended to benefit you and the organization, so as long as there is a good match, Sociology is pleased to support the internship.

What are the possible locations for internships?

Many students do their sociology internships in the Richmond area. However, if you secure an internship in another area and the internship is approved, you may complete your internship there.

What are some examples of internship sites?

Internship sites vary greatly depending on student interests. Examples include working with domestic violence shelters, free after school programs, human rights legislation, homeless shelters and affordable housing, unions, English language learners, and recovery centers. The possibilities are endless.

What are the requirements for completing an internship and how do I get credit?

Sociology internships for undergraduates (SOCY 493) can satisfy 3 credits for your upper level elective in Sociology. You must have completed 18 credit hours in Sociology and/or have junior or

senior standing prior to enrolling in an internship. For 3 credit hours, you must intern for 150 hours (roughly 10 hours/week during fall and spring semesters). You must meet with the internship coordinator prior to registering for an internship (you cannot register yourself for an internship—you must have an override).

Sociology internships for graduate students (SOCY 693) complete one three credit internship (for a total of 6 credits) during their second year of the master's program. Graduate students must also complete 150 hours of internship per semester, as well as complete a paper each semester related to their internship.

What are the guidelines for successful completion of an internship?

Every student enrolled in an internship is required to complete the 150 hours (3 credit hours) at their internship site. In addition, graduate students are required to write a paper detailing their experiences, linking it to sociological theory and methodology. Students are encouraged to stay in communication with the internship coordinator throughout the duration of the internship, and to submit interim and final evaluations from your internship supervisor.

When should I begin to think about an internship for next semester?

Immediately. If you are interested in an internship, the first step is to think about what areas you may be interested in interning. Are there certain areas of sociology that interest you more than others? Are there certain populations you are interested in working with? Would a specific internship be best for your future plans? Then, you must schedule an appointment with the internship coordinator.

Internship deadlines:

Fall Semester: May 1st

Spring Semester: November 1st

Summer: April 1st

Questions or Not sure where to start?

Contact Sociology internship coordinator, Dr. Meredith Katz at makatz@vcu.edu