A Guide to Sport Management Student Internships

The College of Education’s internship program for students in Sport Management is recognized as one of the best in the nation. Through this program, students combine academic work with practical, applied experience in sport management. Answers to some frequently asked questions are noted below.

What Qualifications Does an Intern Have?

To be eligible for an internship, students must be junior or senior students majoring in Sport Management and Policy. They must have completed at least an introductory course in sport management, and may also have completed courses in economics, accounting law, and kinesiology. As part of their business curriculum, students have studied numerous general business subjects, including the use of computers in business settings. Many students also have prior work experience, usually in part-time positions outside of the sport industry.

How Have Past Employers Utilized Interns?

Some employers use interns as high-quality temporary workers to fill in for vacationing, regular employees. Others assign the intern to special projects that regular workers have not had time to do. Depending on employer size and preferences, the intern may be rotated among departments or may work exclusively within one area during the internship period.

How Many Hours Does an Intern Work?

Students who enroll for three hours of academic credit must work at least 135 hours. The general rule is for every hour of academic credit the student is enrolled in, they should have 45 hours of work at the internship site. The typical internship lasts from eight to fifteen weeks.

What Are the Intern’s Responsibilities?

In addition to the work performed, students must keep a daily hour log and write two term papers describing the internship experience. Complete course requirements are set forth in eLC for the students to view. Employers can request a syllabus from the student if so desired.

What are the Employer’s Responsibilities?

The primary concern is that an employer provide a meaningful work experience for the intern, in which the student will be able to apply what has been learned in school to practical, real-world situations. The only administrative requirement is that the employer complete a short one-page supervisory report near the completion of the internship which is emailed in an easy to use electronic survey. This report is used in assessing the grade the student receives for the internship. Of course, the employer is also responsible for compensating the intern for work performed, if they so choose.

How Do Employers and Interns Find Each Other?

Some students arrange internships on their own. In many cases, however, employers indicate to the Sport Management Program their willingness to employ an intern, and the program will provide the information to the students so that they can send their resume to the employer for consideration. Some employers want to select their interns from only a few referred students, while others prefer to consider several candidates for each opening. Similarly, some employers conduct on-campus interviews, and others rely on phone interviews or office visits prior to making their selections. Every effort is made to facilitate the process individual employers want to use.

How Much Are Interns Paid?

It is the company’s discretion for salary rates. The internship can be paid or unpaid from the student’s end to receive academic credit.

What Are the Dates For the Internship Program?

Students must enroll for internship credit for the same academic term in which they are employed. Although most students do internships during the summer, they are not restricted to that time only. The approximate times when internships might be scheduled include:

- Spring Semester
- Summer Semester
- Fall Semester

How Do Employers Apply to Get an Intern?

Employers can indicate their interest in the internship program in many ways. A letter, email, or phone call expressing interest is also acceptable. Michael Slonaker is the Sport Management internship coordinator. He is available to answer questions or provide additional information. Contact him by phone at 706-542-8391; by email at kinsSM@uga.edu; by mail at 319 Ramsey Student Center, Department of Kinesiology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

How Do Students Apply For an Internship?

Students should fill out an application form and submit other required materials in the online internship link they are provided from their advisor. If students do not have the link, please email your advisor for the Qualtrics link.

The application form, as well as complete details about course requirements and deadlines, is available through your academic advisor. Questions should be addressed to the student’s academic advisor. If needed, the advisor will contact the internship coordinator, Michael Slonaker, for follow up questions.

Where is Additional Information Available?

Additional information about the Sport Management Program in the College of Education is available online: https://coe.uga.edu/directory/sport-management-program