

Learning Goals for Internships for Academic Credit at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside

On April 3, 2019, the UW-Parkside Faculty Senate approved the following definition for internships:

An internship is a supervised discipline related work experience that integrates career relevant learning activities into a university education. Internships provide opportunities for students to develop and expand their knowledge and/or skills, gain experience in a work setting, put theory into practice, and expand awareness of potential careers, and often take place outside the university in a public or private-sector organization. Internships are offered for credit by most academic departments at the 400-level. Interns may be paid by the employer or may work as volunteers. An internship agreement describing the work involved, specific job duties, expected work products, and all required assignments must be in writing and signed by the student, faculty supervisor, and outside internship supervisor; and it must be approved by the department chair or program director by the start of the internship. An internship should include an experiential learning strategy, an emphasis on professional development, performance assessments, and student reflections.

Given the UWP definition for an internship as well as the university shared learning goals, it is assumed that internships will address the following learning goals:

- **Integrative learning:** Connect and extend classroom learning to a workplace setting.
- **Professional development:** demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits; shows entry level skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to the position desired and career goals, and identifies areas necessary for professional growth
- **Reflection:** critically examining one's own beliefs and actions with the purposes of making sense of one's experience and to apply that learning to future experiences.
- At least one of the university-wide shared learning goals related to:
 - **Communication**, which may include literacy/written communication, oral communication, information technology, creative expression;
 - **Reasoned Judgement**, which may include critical thinking, ethical thinking, scientific thinking, analytical skills, aesthetic skills;
 - **Social and Personal Responsibility**, which may include individual accountability, social justice, civic engagement, global perspective, teamwork.
- **Department/program specific learning goals**, depending on the specific department or program through which a student is earning her or his internship credit