Internship Spotlight: Earn Credit While Building Your Resume

AU encourages students to hold an internship while they are here. The city provides an array of opportunities and internships are a great way to build your resume while earning credit towards your degree. The logistics can be a bit tricky, so let’s try to clear up some of the questions you might have:

- To earn credit for an internship, students must have already completed at least 30 credits (remember, not all internships have to be done for credit)
- Some majors require students to hold an internship, while others limit the number of credits that can be earned toward the major from an internship. Be sure to talk with your department’s faculty advisor to be sure of the requirements for your major
- The number of credits you earn is equal to the number of hours you work and the level of work performed (no more than 15% of the work can be clerical)
- You must have a faculty internship coordinator (see department for specific faculty)
- CAS Internship Advisor in the Career Center, Marie Spaulding (mspauld@american.edu) can help you find an internship
- The deadline to add an internship for the Spring 2009 semester is Monday, February 2, 2009.

Working through these logistics is fairly simple and definitely worth it. Here’s what one student had to say about her experience: (Shaina Simenas, Class of 2009, recently completed her mandatory Health Promotion Internship at the Suburban Hospital; a non-profit, community based hospital in Bethesda, Md.)

"Interning with Suburban Hospital has given me the opportunity to experience many different aspects of the health promotion field. I have been able to participate in several health and wellness fairs, some with companies that hire Suburban to run cholesterol and blood pressure screenings and some in underserved communities where the people would not have been able to access these services without Suburban’s help. I was also able to work on a program for Hispanic Heritage month in September and October where I organized three health events with lectures and screenings to celebrate good health in the Hispanic communities of DC and Maryland. Interning with Suburban hospital has been an amazing, challenging, and rewarding experience that I am extremely grateful for."

Interested in an internship? Be sure to talk with your CAS Advisor and Career Center Advisor about different opportunities. Start thinking now about a resume, cover letter, and where you may want to intern!

FAQ of the Month

How long do I have to make changes to my Spring 2009 classes?
You can add and drop Spring classes until January 26, 2009 (which is two weeks into the start of the semester). These first two weeks are known as the Add-Drop Period. During this period, you can also change your grade type from a letter grade to Pass/Fail or Pass/Fail to a letter grade. After the first two weeks, you will receive a ‘W’ for any class you drop and will no longer be eligible for a 100% refund or be allowed to change your grade option. The absolute last day to drop a course is March 6, 2009. Please contact your advisor if you have questions.

WIN EAGLE BUCKS! Email CASPeerAdvisors@american.edu with the following information: the first day of classes for Spring Semester; the two dates that classes do not meet in the first two weeks; and why classes are cancelled on those two days. The first 3 students to respond with the correct information will receive $5 in Eagle Bucks!
Do you know your final exam schedule?

Don’t forget to check the final exam schedule on the Registrar’s website: http://www.american.edu/american/registrar/finalexam/fall08.html

Remember, most final exams are scheduled based on the day and time your courses meet. For example: MTH 8:30-9:45am courses’ finals are scheduled for December 8, 2008 at 8:30-11am. See website for full details.

NOTE: Some courses do not follow the standard final exam schedule. Professors are NOT required to accommodate travel plans. It is your responsibility to know when your exam is scheduled!

Eco-Sense will Save the World!

Eco-Sense, the environmental sustainability club at AU, aims to improve the waste/energy efficiency on campus and in the surrounding community. The club initiates sustainable student activities as well as student and faculty-led referendums to reduce AU’s overall carbon emissions. In recent years, Eco-Sense developed a much stronger presence on campus due to the increased awareness of climate change and students’ growing need to live sustainably. Local media coverage in January 2008, during President-Elect Obama’s speech in Bender Arena, broadcast Eco-Sense’s message about cleaner energy and going green off campus and into the Washington, DC community.

Want to learn how to power a rock concert with bike-power or make your own solar-panel? Interested in recycling, composting, and living sustainably at AU? Check out Eco-Sense on Facebook to find out about upcoming Spring 2009 meetings and events.

Didn’t do as well as you hoped to this semester...

If your semester did not turn out the way you planned, not to worry. You have options. If you are a freshman, remember the Freshmen Forgiveness Rule applies to you! If you received an F or X in any of your courses during your first two semesters of full time study, you can retake the classes you failed under Freshmen Forgiveness. Both grades will appear on your transcript, but only the grade received the second time with count towards your GPA.

For all students, freshmen included, if you received a grade lower than a C in one of your major/minor courses or the University Math or Writing Requirement courses, you will need to retake either the same class or one which fulfills the same requirement. Be aware, your original grade will not be dropped from your GPA or removed from your transcript if you retake the same class. You will only receive credit for the course one time and you must get approval from your advisor to repeat any course. Refer to page 49 of the general catalog for more information about repeating courses.

Want to know your grades?

Professors generally post final grades within 72 hours of the final exam. Fall grades should be available by December 18th. You can check your grades through the My Grades link on my.american.edu, located under Academics.

Dates to Remember!

December 5, 2008—Last day of Fall classes
December 8—15, 2008—Fall Finals
December 10, 2008—Study Day: No Class & Final Perk—AU Library Mud Box, 8-10pm
January 12, 2009—First day of Spring Semester

Questions or comments? Please email CASPeerAdvisors@american.edu

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