Career Center’s Internship Program

CSU, Chico’s Internship program links the University to business, industry, and government by giving students an opportunity to combine classroom study with career related work experience. The program helps students define their educational goals and prepare for their careers by exploring the realities of the working world.

Valuable teaching and learning can occur outside the classroom. In recognition, the Internship Program has formed a partnership with business and government which provides students with the opportunity to gain academically related work experience prior to graduation. These practical learning experiences extend the walls of the University, permitting students to blend theory and practice at an early stage in their professional growth.

The program provides an excellent source of energetic, highly motivated employees and enables employers to evaluate interns under actual working conditions and assess their performance as prospective employees.

Internship opportunities are essentially limitless, bound more by the imagination than geography or type of work. Work experience opportunities exist throughout the nation and world in a spectrum of subjects from agriculture to the fine arts. Through the Internship Program, students have interned with a vast list of agencies and corporations including British Petroleum in London; the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C.; Hewlett-Packard, Chevron, and Deloitte, and KPMG in the San Francisco Bay Area; and Target in Chico. These experiences allow students to explore their career dreams, test their abilities in supportive work environments, gain invaluable insights into various careers, develop skills, and work with equipment not available at the University.

Experiential education positions can be paid or unpaid, full time or part time, and normally coincide with the fall, spring, or summer terms. Students earn academic credit for a University assignment associated with work experience. A maximum of 15 internship units (courses numbered 389, 489) may be applied to a bachelor’s degree at CSU, Chico.

“Working for NUMMI was an eye-opener to the real world. I learned problem-solving skills that will be useful to any job I have in the future. It was an excellent experience.”

NUMMI Intern (Toyota/General Motors Joint Venture)

“The curriculums at Chico State prepare the students for the challenges they will encounter in the corporate world. Add to that, the polish that they gain in working with the Career Center staff, and you have a great place for me to look for our future leaders at our company.”

Hiring Manager, Federated Insurance

“I have worked with the Career Center for over two years as a student and have been extremely impressed by their helpful staff, resources, and expert career guidance. Through them I got an impressive internship the summer prior to graduation and interviewed with many top tier companies this current semester. I am so appreciative and feel I will have many great career opportunities as a result.”

Graduating Senior
Internship Services
The University’s internship programs are coordinated by the Career Center. The office assists students, employers, and academic departments in developing and improving academically related work experience programs and matching students with employers. The Internship Program offers the following services:

- The Wildcat Career Connection, a database highlighting hundreds of local, national and international opportunities.
- Overall coordination of departmental co-op/internship programs.
- Counseling and placement.
- Referral to departmental internship programs.
- All the counseling / advising services offered by the Career Center (See page 59).

Internships cover the broadest spectrum of experiential education. Most internships are non-paid and part time. The University also has active departmental internship programs to assist employers and students. Each departmental internship program has its own requirements, and it is advisable to consult the department directly. The Cooperative Education Program (co-op) is also administered by the Career Center. Co-op positions are paid and can be full time or part time. The work periods are typically from January-June, and June-December; however, summer-only work sessions may be arranged. The salaries for co-ops range from $1,000 to more than $4,000 per month and depend upon the student's major, year in school, and the company. Many co-op students receive permanent job offers from the companies participating in the co-op program.

Approximately 1,800 students are placed annually with nearly 700 agencies and companies.

What Employers Are Saying
The internship experience is so valuable in part because of the great companies who employ Chico students. See some of the feedback the University has received for our exceptional students:

“Chico Students are great communicators. They listen well and ask great questions. They show motivation and are eager to know more about our business,” Balboa Capital Corp.

“Chico students work very well in a collaborative team environment, have solid exposure to SAP and typically have strong PC skills,” Chevron.

“Chico students receive excellent preparation through real-life simulation projects with a focus on teamwork,” Bearing Point.

“It is obvious that Chico State students bank tremendous experience in education, activities and social experiences. Couple those experiences with the unparalleled attention students receive through the Career Center, and a great candidate is born,” Federated Insurance.

“My internship at Intel gave me exposure to the operations of a Fortune 500 company and a deeper understanding of how the technical training I’ve received can be applied to board room decision making scenarios. I’d recommend every student get an internship to help diversify their background and make them a better, more qualified candidate for full-time consideration.”

Intel Intern Student

“We were very impressed with the caliber of the students and their initiative, presentation, and research. They were enthusiastic about the opportunities with our company.”

Recruiting Manager, State Street Corporation

“The co-op allowed me to put to use all of the problem-solving skills I have developed during my education. It gave me experience in areas that I had not been exposed to before.”

Chevron Co-op Student