

MARE 480: Senior Internship (3 credits)

Applications of knowledge and skills in a public, private or government agency involved in marine science education or research. Prerequisite: junior or senior class standing, consent of instructor and pre-approved placement.

The purpose of the Marine Science Senior Internship at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo is to complement the student's field of study with practical, hands-on experience in a professional setting. Students are given the opportunity to apply knowledge learned in their college courses in an authentic context, learn the skills required for success in their chosen careers, and establish contacts with possible future employers. The program is designed so that students develop a series of learning objectives before embarking on the internship, and then compile supporting evidence and documentation from their work to demonstrate their progress towards those objectives. The course is writing intensive, and involves an oral presentation and written final report debriefing the internship experience. Students are expected to work 165 hours (approximately 15 hours per week for 11-13 weeks to meet the time requirement of the internship, or the work may be condensed into a shorter period), and some of the time commitment may involve work on ancillary projects that enhance and expand the actual internship experience. During the fall semester, coursework associated with the internship focuses on the development of skills and strategies for launching a successful career in marine science; for example, resume and grant writing skills, interview and other communication skills, and workplace ethics.