

SOC 391 Internship

Spring 2013

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Class Time: Monday, 5:00-5:50 PM

Office Hours: Monday, 1:00 to 3:00 PM; Tuesday and Thursday, Noon to 1:30 PM

Other times by Appointment

URL: <http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/academics/sociology/>

Introduction

Internships are a process of learning by watching and doing. Our model is based on an apprenticeship experience where students are trained through example and mentoring. Internships provide an opportunity for students to learn by watching professionals at their trade and by working under professional supervision. For many, it is a chance to see what real professional work is like, and an opportunity to discover if this is work they want to do for a career. In addition, students gain practical skills and professional contacts in these fields. Sociology interns are expected to be mature self-starters, who may be bound for graduate training or who want real-world experience preceding graduation.

Sociology interns have served in a number of private non-profit and government agencies around the Big Island and elsewhere. Many of our internship placements are oriented toward social work, education and public service. Students have been placed in hospital social work departments, in agencies providing substance abuse treatment, and in organizations for the homeless. Our students are placed with agencies that provide services for troubled youth and for people living with HIV. They have conducted community-based research, assisted social workers in conducting assessments and counseling, and learned skills while assisting in various criminal justice settings. While providing students with these diverse learning experiences, the internship program also builds the human service capacity of the local community by providing skilled individuals with leadership potential.

Course Objectives

Objective 1 provide an opportunity for students to apply theoretical knowledge and skills in a real world setting such as a public, private or government agency or similar setting.

Objective 2 to help students understand the dynamics of the workplace

Objective 3 to allow students to gain experience that will assist them in gaining employment after education or meet requirements for grad school

Objective 4 to help students determine whether they are a good fit within certain profession

Objective 5 to help students appreciate the vital nature of professional ethics

Course Requirements

Internships at UHH may be taken for a total of 12 credits, only six of which can apply to the Sociology major or three to the minor. Students generally work 140 hours per semester for three credits and put in ten hours per week in the field. Interns meet as a class on designated dates to share experiences with one another and learn from each other about the various types of work they are exposed to, gaining new ideas about how to deal with problems that come up and offer solutions to one another. Students should expect each week to share what their activities were for the week and what issues they encountered with others at these weekly meetings.

Class Attendance

The instructor will discuss the class schedule with students during the first session. All students will meet during the first two class sessions of the semester. During the second session, a schedule of future class meetings and final oral reports will be passed out. Attendance at class meetings is required and all absences must be approved by the instructor in advance. Unexcused class absences may result in a lower final grade.

Journals

Every student should keep a log, similar to a journal or diary, in which they record the hours worked, at what activities or sites, with whom they worked, impressions of significant events, and positive and negative events that occurred.

Report

The experiences recorded in student journals provide the basis for a final report (3-5 pages) summarizing experiences over the semester, including what students learned, how they grew or were affected personally, an evaluation of their internship experience, including strengths and weaknesses, and a self-evaluation of their performance on the job. Students will also present to the class a summary of their experience at the end of the semester.

Any student with a documented disability who would like to request accommodations should contact the University Disability Services Office, Campus Center 311, 933-0816 (Voice), 933-3334 (TTY) as early as possible in the semester.

Ethics and Community Relationships

Interns should be sure to discuss and have clear with their supervisors what ethical and professional standards are expected. They are to abide by these principles. Our internship

program has a constructive, long-standing relationship with important community organizations in East Hawai'i. We want to do everything possible to maintain these good relations by continuing to send our best and brightest students to these placement sites.

Student Data Form

Please provide the following information:

Name _____ ID # _____

Mailing address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Placement Agency Name: _____

Agency Address: _____

Agency Supervisor's Name: _____

Agency Supervisor's Title: _____

Supervisor's Phone: _____

Supervisor's Email: _____

Planned Graduation Date: _____