

Internship or Practicum Track.

a. Student Tasks:

- i. Select a full-time BU faculty member to assist with finding an internship or practicum (please refer to internship guidelines)
- ii. One semester post-internship will be spent with mentor. Reflection paper is due and possible presentation will be required.

INTERNSHIP OR PRACTICUM TRACK

The Internship Track is devised for those students who are in very practical majors like nursing, areas of business, or digital forensics that require an internship BEFORE the last semester of the senior year. The student must be able to return to campus and complete their write up before graduating, therefore, student teaching does not work with the internship track unless the student enrolls in the Honors College AFTER student in order to finish their project.

BEFORE starting the internship, the student will select a mentor and produce an area to study during the internship. In many ways, this research is the qualitative equivalent to a quantitative research project; the student will identify an area in their chosen area of work and develop a question that they can consider during the course of the internship. Under the guidance of the mentor the student will complete the Internship Independent Study Proposal.

Honors internship differs from a regular internship in that the students must produce a written work of 10 pages and an academic poster that demonstrates what the students have learned from the internship that will benefit their careers. The written work and poster will examine a problem identified before the internship and develop an analysis of the problem and propose possible ways to resolve the problem. For example, in one case, a student did an internship with a beer distributor and did an analysis of the ways that Pennsylvania liquor laws have changed in the last ten years and what implications of these changing laws are for the distributors. The student investigated which areas of beer distribution had declined in the last ten years and which had improved. He then developed a plan to make the distributor where he was working more financially viable. If the analysis requires less space than fifteen pages, the students should also reflect upon expectations of the internship, the experience itself, and how the internship broadened the student's perspective and helped professionalize the student, exposing him/her to the expectations of the student's profession. In addition to the ten-page

paper, the student will produce a poster that will be displayed at the end-of-the—year Honors banquet.

To a marked degree, a successful Honors Independent Study experience depends on selection of the right mentor. Honors students have generally found that the most effective mentors are those who remain actively involved in the student's project, encouraging steady progress and work of the highest quality. Students should meet frequently with their mentors to discuss any problems, formulate approaches, try out arguments, review completed work and shape the overall direction and focus of the project. If a student encounters problems with his/her mentor and cannot work them out, he/she should consult the Honors Director for advice and assistance.

The internship may be either an academic or non-academic internship, but the Honors proposal must be approved by the director for rigor and merit. Upon completion of the internship, the student must sign up for HIS 1 with the internship mentor and produce a ten page paper and poster that will be presented at a conference and/or Honors graduation.

The following section gives answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about Honors Internship Independent Study.

Do I need to take ITR?

No. Some students have found it helpful to determine what question they may ask during their internship, but if a student is able to develop a sufficient question before doing their internship. In addition, ITR fulfills the requirements for a 1 GEP in Goal 2.

When should I start the Internship HIS sequence?

After students are "ready" to do independent work. Except in extreme circumstances, the earliest start is the second semester of the sophomore year; the latest is the second semester of the junior year (for the 4 year undergraduate). The Program encourages these start times as it allows for HIS I to be completed prior to the final semester of a student's undergraduate career. In this way loose ends can be tied up and high quality written products and oral presentations will result. In addition starting early allows the student to present his/her findings.

How do I find a mentor for my project?

The best advice is for you to identify a faculty member who you respect and who has a track record of successful projects with students. Do not be shy about asking tough questions. Also consult with the Honors director, members of HAC, and most importantly students who are currently doing or have completed HIS. Faculty are knowledgeable about the productivity of their peers and students know who is good (and not so good) to work with.

I am in Education. Can I do a classroom project?

Very emphatically, yes. But your internship will need to be completed so that you have a semester AFTER the internship to do the writing.

Will I have to present my project at a conference or meeting?

The Program encourages students and faculty to present the results at some appropriate meeting within their discipline. This is not required but does enhance the value of the Honors project and the undergraduate resume. The Honors College typically can support a significant portion of the cost of attending regional or national meetings. The student does have to present a poster at Honors graduation.

Independent Study Course Numbers

Course numbers depend upon department or college of the faculty member that is the mentor for the student project. In most Business, Humanities, and Social Sciences departments, Honors Independent Studies are scheduled under "09" while Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Math, Psychology (first independent study semester) and Professional Studies use their own course numbers. The Honors office will be responsible for assigning the correct course number when the proposal is forwarded for approval.

09-476 Business Independent Study I (3 credits)

09-477 Business Independent Study II (3 credits)

09-491 Humanities Independent Study I (3 credits)

09-493 Humanities Independent Study II (3credits)

09-496 Social Sciences Independent Study I (3 credits)

09-498 Social Sciences Independent Study II (3 credits)

50-493 Biology Independent Study I & II (3 credits)

51-493 Geography/GeoScience Independent Study I & II (3 credits)

52-493 Chemistry Independent Study I & II (3 credits)

53-492 Math Independent Study I (3 credits)

53-493 Math Independent Study II (3 credits)

54-494 Physics Independent Study I & II (3 credits)

79-431 Professional Studies Independent Study I (3 credits)

79-432 Professional Studies Independent Study II (3 credits)

Title of Proposal

Name of Student

Under the Direction of: Mentor name and department

I. Statement of Purpose

II. Timeline

III. Resources and Funding

IV. Project Evaluation and Presentation

Faculty Endorsement

The student and I have consulted with each other on this proposal. We have agreed on its intent and format and have arranged to meet regularly through the duration of this project. The proposal represents a collaborative effort to produce a product understood to involve one semester of Independent Study, culminating with an Honors Capstone Project. As faculty mentor, I shall certify acceptance of the project, and it shall be submitted to the Honors Advisory Committee for review when completed. In addition I agree to assist the student in the preparation of a final oral and/or poster presentation of this work. Projects will be kept on file and the Registrar shall be notified of the student's completion of the program.

Faculty Mentor: _____ Date: _____

Honors Student: _____ Date: _____

➤ The Independent study is then listed in the student's schedule with the appropriate course number for the semester or summer session in which the project will be undertaken.