SYLLABUS FOR

695

GRADUATE BUSINESS INTERNSHIP

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DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

JOHN F. DONAHUE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

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I. 695 COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Graduate Business Internship provides the student with a professional work experience in an organizational environment. The internship is an extension of the curriculum and provides meaningful experience related to the student’s area of concentration. The internship responsibilities must be approved in advance by a programs coordinator. The student is supervised within the work setting and also by a faculty sponsor from the John F. Donahue Graduate School of Business. Grading is Pass-Fail.

Prerequisites: Approval of the faculty sponsor, the program coordinator of the student’s area of concentration and the administrator of the graduate program. Limited to graduate students who have completed Pre-MBA Foundation and MBA Core.

II. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the 695 Graduate Business Internship are:

1. To introduce the student to a typical work environment in his/her chosen field of study;
2. To provide first-hand organizational experience for the student which affords him/her the opportunity to assess organizational behavior and interpersonal communications;
3. To provide the student with an opportunity to assess the significance of a position in his/her discipline as it relates to the organization as a whole;
4. To enhance the learning process beyond the foundation provided by coursework;
5. To enhance the student’s interpersonal skills and develop a sense of professionalism in the work environment;
6. To give the student an opportunity to test, in an actual business setting, the principles and theories taught in the classroom and apply them in a business organization.

III. SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the Graduate Business Internship, the student will:

1. Understand the performance expectations of various jobs related to the student’s area of concentration;
2. Relate to “real-world” experience in an organizational setting;
3. Develop a sense of professionalism;
4. Develop a sense of business and work ethics;
5. Refine verbal and written communication skills and understand the importance of communications in the organizational setting;
6. Possess enhanced problem-solving abilities;
7. Develop an awareness of organizational behavior and management styles;
8. Possess improved critical thinking skills;
9. Enhance the learning experience beyond that provided in coursework; and
10. Enhance the overall understanding of the structure and workings of an
organization.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Minimum Academic Requirements

1. Minimum 3.0 overall QPA
2. Minimum Pre-MBA Foundation and MBA Core completed by the time
   of internship.
3. Minimum of 3 credits of graduate study or 6 credits of undergraduate
   study completed in the area of concentration.
4. Transfer students must have completed a minimum of 8 credits at
   Duquesne University. Note: 8 credits constitute a full load for a
   semester.
5. Typically, 3 internship credits can be earned and applied to the
   Graduate School of Business program of studies.

B. Academic Credit

1. A minimum of 50 hours per credit earned must be worked. For
   example, if a student applies for 3 credits, he must work a minimum of
   (50 hours x 3 credits) = 150 hours.
2. Exceptions to the above will be considered on an individual basis by the
   Graduate School of Business office.

C. Work Ethics

The student applying for a Duquesne University Internship must subscribe
to the following “Code of Ethics for Interns:”

“As a Duquesne University Intern, I realize that it is my responsibility to
cooperate with my employer and to hold in professional confidence any
information gained regarding the business of the firm, institution, or
agency, and to refrain from using such information in an unethical
manner. It is my further responsibility to maintain high personal standards
and a willingness to learn on the job.”

D. Site Development

The Career Services Center will establish and maintain sites utilizing the
following:

1. Previously developed sites,
2. Organizations which submit unsolicited information and/or requests for
   interns from Duquesne University,
3. Sites developed by the internship coordinator and Career Services staff,
4. Sites sought by students,
5. Referrals from faculty.

E. Application for an Internship

1. The Internship Office (CSC) maintains an online posting of internship opportunities (by semester, academic major) and internship registration materials.

2. When a student is interested in doing an internship, s/he must register on-line with the Career Services Center. The “Student Internship Registration” requires the following information:
   - Completed profile, including contact and academic information.
   - Current Resume.
   - Permission for the Career Services Center to forward his/her resume to employers seeking interns.
   - Authorization Form, to determine if the student meets the minimum requirements of the University and the department, completed and signed by academic advisor.

3. To assist the student in securing an internship, students’ resumes may be referred to organizations for any incoming, pre-approved internships which match the student’s qualifications and interests, and employer’s needs. Note that internship placement is not guaranteed.

   Student may also review the Internship Opportunities online and forward their resumes to employers for consideration of the internship position.

4. Students may elect to identify their own internship. In such cases, students must request that the employer provide complete contact information and the job description. Employer registration information must be approved by a program coordinator for credit consideration.

5. The internship coordinator determines whether or not an internship is credit-worthy. Internships are not approved for credit when family members supervise the student nor when students work in businesses owned by family members.

6. Credit for an internship must be received within the semester in which the student does the internship.

F. Acceptance of an Internship
1. If the student is accepted by an organization and is interested in the internship, s/he can then seek a faculty sponsor. If a student is unable to secure a faculty sponsor, the Graduate School of Business program coordinator of the division of the student’s area of concentration should be contacted for assistance. The program coordinator will then assign a sponsor using his/her system of assignment, or students may request a particular faculty sponsor, pending the approval of the program coordinator.

The faculty sponsor will determine what must be done to earn credit. (See Recommended Evaluation included in syllabus.)

The student must adhere to university policy and the particular policy of his/her school, in addition to the criteria established with her/his faculty sponsor.

2. Once the student and faculty sponsor have agreed on the terms of the internship, it should be formally established in a “Learning Contract”. It is required that this contract be signed by the student, employing supervisor, faculty sponsor, program coordinator, internship coordinator, and academic advisor. A completed copy should be maintained by each. This establishes each party’s commitment before the internship begins. The Learning Contract MUST be completed before an academic advisor will process the internship add/drop. The registration deadline for an internship is seven weeks from the first day of classes.

3. The student must enroll in 695 Graduate Business Internship. Tuition is in accordance with University policy.

4. Finally, the student should indicate in the student’s profile in DuqConnection that s/he no longer seeks an internship and would prefer that his/her resume not be forwarded to organizations.

V. RECOMMENDED EVALUATION

The student will be evaluated based on his/her performance in the job situation. The sources of evaluation are the intern’s immediate supervisor in the job environment and the intern’s faculty sponsor. A weight of 60% will be assigned to the evaluation submitted by the immediate supervisor, and a weight of 40% will be assigned to the evaluation done by the faculty sponsor, or internship coordinator. Grading is on a Pass-Fail basis.

The student should submit a 1-3 page typewritten report every other week to report on his/her internship. The report must describe, in detail, the work done, the progress made, and the problems encountered. The reports must also provide
insights on the value (or non-value) of the particular internship assignment as follows:

1. (A) Relate your goals for the internship - what do you want to accomplish, learn from this experience?
   (B) How does this internship tie in with your future career goals?

2. Examine the organization and your role in it:
   (A) Give a brief background of the business and the department
   (B) Examine your role and responsibilities as they relate to the organization as a whole. What is the importance of your role to the organization?

3. Relate this internship experience to your coursework at Duquesne, both in your major and your overall courses.
   (A) How does the internship tie in to your coursework? Does it support, contradict, or not relate in any way?
   (B) How has your college education helped prepare you for this internship? (i.e. technical, communication, thinking skills)

4. Examine the dynamics of the organization (and/or your department).
   What have you learned regarding the significance of the formal and informal organizational structures and networks?

It is not necessary to have your on-site supervisor review and sign these reports.

The report must be sent or delivered to the faculty sponsor. Faculty sponsors may vary requirements as they choose, for example, by either meeting with the student bi-weekly, and/or having the student keep daily logs which are reviewed periodically by the faculty sponsor.

The student must also submit a 5-10 page typewritten paper prior to the end of the final examination period. This paper should address the following:

- Briefly summarize the major responsibilities for the internship and the percentage of time you worked in each area.
- Review the original goals of the internship.
  Have these goals been met? How?
  Which goal(s) were not accomplished?
- What do you feel were your major accomplishments and learning experiences of the internship?
- In what areas do you feel you can still improve regarding this specific internship? How will you work to improve in these areas?
- How has this internship impacted your career goals?
- Please give any final impressions you may have on your internship.
Again, the faculty sponsor may alter this requirement.

The student is required to complete a final evaluation of the internship and forward it to the internship coordinator.

The immediate supervisor from the sponsoring organization is required to complete a final evaluation and forward it to the faculty sponsor or internship coordinator.

The faculty sponsor should visit the local internship site to meet with the immediate supervisor (or communicate electronically with long-distances sites) between mid-term and the end of the semester. Areas of concern can be discussed and measures to improve the intern’s performance should be prescribed and agreed upon. Multiple visits may be required in some cases.