

Internships for Economics Credit

The Economics Department at Lewis and Clark College offers academic credit for internships with business, government, and other organizations. The internships provide opportunities for well-prepared students to put economic concepts to work in real job environments. In the recent past, our students have completed internships with Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, Oregon Environmental Council, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Oregon Center for Public Policy, American Express Financial Advisors, and Puma AG. The internships provided students with practical experience in the business and policy worlds, and helped make their Lewis and Clark course work relevant to their careers. In addition, the students made contacts that could be beneficial when they enter the job market.

The mechanics of getting academic credit for internships is as follows. To earn the maximum 4 credit hours (for a grade of CR or NC), the student spends 16 hours per week for 14 weeks in the intern position. To earn fewer credit hours (from 1 to 3), the intern time is 4 hours per week per credit hour. Academic credit is provided in two practicum courses, Econ 244 and Econ 444. The prerequisite for Econ 244 is Econ 100 (Principles of Economics), and the prerequisites for Econ 444 are Econ 291 and Econ 292 (Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory and Intermediate Microeconomic Theory). The idea is that students in Econ 244 will apply economic concepts from the principles course in the internship, while the students in Econ 444 will apply the concepts from intermediate theory.

The mechanics of setting up an internship are as follows. The individual student finds the internship, working through Career Connections, or other contacts on campus or off campus. Lewis and Clark is member of a consortium that allows students to access thousands of internships throughout the U.S. and beyond. Career Connections (<http://www.lclark.edu/dept/careers>) website has information on these internships as well as suggestions on how to apply for and secure an internship. Once the student has arranged an internship, he or she fills out an Internship Information Form—copy attached—and mails the form to the Internship Coordinator, the faculty member responsible for Economics 244 and Econ 444 (Arthur O’Sullivan, Mailstop #40, Lewis &

Clark College), who then contacts the internship sponsor to verify the information on the form. The student then contacts the Registrar to sign up for practicum credit.

Although credit for the internship is granted in either Fall or Spring Semester, the internship can be completed any time during the calendar year. Over the course of the internship, the intern keeps track of time spent working, using the Weekly Tracking Sheet (page 4 of this document). At the midpoint of the internship, the supervisor fills out a midterm evaluation form (page 5 of this document) and mails it to the Internship Coordinator. At the end of the internship, the supervisor fills out a final evaluation form (page 6 of this document) and mails it to the Internship Coordinator. At the end of the internship, the student mails the Weekly Tracking Sheet to the Internship Coordinator.

The final product of the internship is a short paper (5 – 10 pages) that describes the internship activities and relates them to the intern's educational experience at Lewis and Clark. The paper is due at the end of the exam period of Spring Semester (when academic credit for the internship is granted). Here are some questions that should be answered in the essay.

1. What did you learn in your Lewis and Clark coursework that was applicable to your internship experience?
2. What did you not learn in LC courses that would have been helpful in the internship?
3. What did you learn in the internship that broadened or deepened your understanding of the basic concepts of economics?
4. If you were to address one of our current classes (in principles, intermediate theory, or applied economics), what new insights into real-world economics would you pass on to students?

For additional information on the Economics Department internship program, contact Arthur O'Sullivan: 503-768-7610; arthuro@lclark.edu.

INTERNSHIP INFORMATION SHEET

Intern: _____

Date: _____

Circle One: Econ 244 or Econ 444

Internship Title: _____

Organization: _____

Supervisor

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please describe the organization's objectives for the internship.

Please list the specific duties of the intern.

Economics Internship

Supervisor's Midterm Evaluation of Intern

Intern: _____ Supervisor: _____

Date: _____ Circle One: Econ 244 or Econ 444

This form is to be completed at the midpoint of the internship and mailed to

Arthur O'Sullivan
Mailstop #40
Lewis & Clark College
0615 SW Palatine Hill Road
Portland, Oregon, 97219

Please evaluate your intern's performance by answering the following questions. If the answer to a question is "yes," a brief explanation will suffice.

1. Timely Completion of Tasks. Does the intern complete the assigned tasks in a timely manner?

2. Quality of Work. Does the intern's work meet your standards of quality?

3. Attitude. Does the intern have a good attitude toward work?

Economics Internship

Supervisor's Final Evaluation of Intern

Intern: _____ Supervisor: _____

Date: _____ Circle One: Econ 244 or Econ 444

This form is to be completed at the midpoint of the internship and mailed to
Arthur O'Sullivan
Mailstop #40
Lewis & Clark College
0615 SW Palatine Hill Road
Portland, Oregon, 97219

Please evaluate your intern's performance by answering the following questions. If the answer to a question is "yes," a brief explanation will suffice.

1. Timely Completion of Tasks. Did the intern complete the assigned tasks in a timely manner?

2. Quality of Work. Did the intern's work meet your standards of quality?

3. Attitude. Did the intern have a good attitude toward work?