

GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS (GEO) INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

GEO 5900 INTERNSHIP (1-3 credits)

Prerequisite: Consent of GEO Internship Coordinator.

Student internships and work experience in geoscience related jobs. This cooperative education program is available to GEO majors.

PURPOSE:

1. To provide undergraduate students with opportunities to gain work experience and work on real geologic problems and applications.
2. To provide internship hosts (companies or organizations) with some student help (gratis) on geologic work.

PARTICIPANTS:

GEO ACADEMIC INTERNSHIP COORDINATORS:

Dr. Richard Jarrard, Professor
Dept. of Geology & Geophysics
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Dr. Susan Halgedahl, Assoc. Professor
Dept. of Geology & Geophysics
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STUDENT:

Registered Geology & Geophysics (GEO) undergraduate students. Program may also be expanded to include some top high school students interested in the Earth Sciences and/or incoming undergraduate students to the University of Utah.

INTERNSHIP SPONSOR:

Designated representative from the company or firm who will host the student and supervise/oversee the student's work. Will be the person the student directly reports to for assignments, and will outline the basic student responsibilities and expectations on the agreement form. Host will complete evaluation and feedback form(s) for the student, to be sent to the Internship Coordinator.

INTERNSHIP ORGANIZATION:

The Internship should be structured to coincide with the semester time frame. Up to three credit hours may be counted toward an elective requirement in GEO degree programs.

Students work primarily for the experience and University credits (GEO 5900); payment of an hourly wage by the sponsor is welcomed but not required.

CREDIT HOURS:

1 semester credit hour: 5 hrs/week = 75 hrs. per semester

2 semester credit hours: 10 hrs/week = 150 hrs. per semester

3 semester credit hours: 15 hrs/week = 225 hrs. per semester

Students will receive letter grades for GEO 5900 based on the sponsor evaluation forms and on the final student write-up due at the end of the semester. Thus, GEO 5900 can be counted towards graduation credits. A letter grade will be assigned by GEO Internship Coordinator.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE AND HOW IT WORKS:

Approximately one month before the end of the semester the Internship Coordinator will contact potential sponsors to ascertain the availability of internship opportunities for the following semester. Students interested in an internship should fill out the Student Internship Interest Form as far in advance as possible. The Internship Coordinator or a potential Sponsor will contact the student when a suitable opportunity develops. Students should register for GG 5900 but be prepared for the eventuality that a suitable internship may not become available.

INTERNSHIP AGREEMENTS:

Agreement forms, indicating internship goals and credit hours, between the student, faculty advisor, and the internship host (company representative) must be signed prior to students starting work. There will also be a standard liability form to be completed by all the involved parties. At the end of an internship, both student and host will be asked to fill out a brief feedback survey to help us evaluate the success of the experience and to guide us on how we can improve internships for the future. The internship coordinator facilitates matching students to available internships. Note: In a given semester some internships may go unfilled or the demand by students may exceed the number of available internships.

FUNDING:

If possible, we request internship sponsors consider a \$100 donation per student credit hour (made out to the Department of Geology and Geophysics) which will be used to support the internship program. If sponsors have additional monies that might normally be used to pay students, however modest, they can pay the student directly or via a tax-deductible donation to the Department of Geology and Geophysics.

GUIDELINES TO STUDENTS:

One of the most important requirements is a willingness to be taught and a desire to learn. Students must adopt a strong and healthy work ethic, being prompt, on-time, courteous, and helpful. Listen, and be communicative! If there is something that needs clarification, ask questions early on so you can avoid stumbling down what might be a wrong path. Remember that you are a representative of our Department and your performance can affect whether or not a host might decide to continue participating in the internship program. If you find out things aren't working out as you had hoped, or there are any personality conflicts, please notify the Internship Coordinator right away so we might offer solutions or find you some other placement.

GUIDELINES TO INTERNSHIP SPONSOR:

The Sponsor Information Packet contains all the details and forms the sponsor will need. Because most students are working gratis, and this is intended to be a profitable learning experience (not just free labor), please set up a do-able project so that the students can have some closure to their projects within the specified credit hours and corresponding work time.