University of Central Florida Forensic Science Program Internship

General Information:
CHS 4591 is a four credit hour academic course for which students are concurrently registered while participating in the Forensic Science Program Internship. The course and internship experience are undertaken in the ultimate or penultimate semester of the Forensic Science B.S. Program. This four hundred hour experience exposes candidates to the professional attitudes, challenges, and ethical behavior demanded by the forensic science agencies practicing scientific investigations of criminal activity.

Student Preparation:
Students are expected to contact and apply to agencies of their choice following discussion with their Forensic Science Academic Advisor. The internship course requires an override for registration, which is granted only to eligible seniors (see the UCF course catalog for prerequisite requirements). Extensive exposure to the forensic sciences gives the internee a deeper understanding of the scientific nature of the investigative process. Be aware that the agency will conduct a background assessment, which may take a considerable period of time. This background assessment may include your academic, social, and/or financial records as well as a drug and/or polygraph examination.

Federal agencies offer a limited number of internships. These agencies require early application and are usually highly competitive in selection. State agencies usually offer the full range of specialties, whereas local agencies often focus on crime scene investigation. In full service laboratories sections may include biology, toxicology, chemistry, trace evidence, firearms, latent prints, and crime scene investigation. Medical examiner's offices may also offer the opportunities in toxicology, death investigations, and autopsy examination.

Course Requirements:
1. Students must provide the following information (via Webcourses) within two weeks of starting the internship:
   a. Name and official title of the internship coordinator and the supervisor(s)
   b. Telephone number and email address of the supervisor(s)
   c. Mailing address of the agency
   d. Starting and end dates of the internship

2. Students must maintain a daily logbook of their activities, which is signed by the supervisor as an accurate record of study.

3. Students must prepare a research report under the direction of the CHS 4591 course instructor. This report must also be authorized by the internship supervisor.

4. Students must complete all assignments on Webcourses including all reflection assignments, research report assignments, and additional modules, which may vary by semester.

5. An assessment regarding intern's conduct, aptitude, and performance must be completed by the agency supervisor. The CHS 4591 instructor will send this assessment to the agency supervisor.

6. Grading of the internship experience is based upon the following scheme:
   a. Reflections, Quizzes, Time Logs, etc. 30%
   b. Research Report (and Related Assignments, Peer Review, etc.) 50%
   c. Supervisor Assessment 20%

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The Agency Support:
The program asks that each intern be assigned a supervisor, who will be responsible for directing training as appropriate. The interns have considerable experience in instrumental analysis and DNA typing protocols, supported by chemistry, biological sciences, physics, statistics, and computer skills. Interns are expected to observe agency discipline, dress code, safety procedures, and practice good time management. Where possible, interns should be offered a research project of specific interest to the agency, and achieve success under minimum supervision. Interns must fulfill the requirements cited above (1-4). The program seeks an assessment by the immediate supervisor on the character, personal qualities, conduct, and abilities of the intern at the end of the period. This assessment is weighted heavily in awarding the final grade to the student.

Experience has demonstrated the immense value of the internship in student careers. For the faculty, it is an essential element in the professional development of aspiring forensic analysts. The University cannot offer such an experience to students, and relies heavily on the willingness of forensic agencies to support this learning activity. The faculty is deeply indebted to the profession for this aspect of the educational process in the forensic sciences.

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