Internship (General)
IST 668  3-6 Credits

Meetings and Schedule

There are no scheduled class meetings for this course. Interns will communicate with faculty supervisors as needed through individual meetings or voice/electronic media. Typically, there will also be a site visit at which the faculty supervisor will meet with the student and internship mentor to discuss the internship experience and the student’s progress. If distance is an issue, the faculty supervisor, internship mentor and student will arrange for a discussion through appropriate media. The intern’s schedule at the internship site is arranged by the intern and mentor. Most interns spread the internship evenly throughout the semester by doing regular hours each week, but there may be variation from this depending on the needs of the placement and the intern.

Objectives and Description

The internship is designed to provide a learning experience for students. During the course of the internship, the student should gain new insights, knowledge, experience and skills. The student is expected to work alongside the mentor or work on projects under the direct supervision of the mentor. This may entail some routine tasks, but the majority of the time should be spent on professional activities. The intern is not meant to be a replacement for regular staff. The mentor should be available to meet with the student on a regular basis and should have interest in and time available for the management and guidance of the student. It is also expected that the mentor will have the appropriate professional qualifications to effectively supervise and assist students in their internship experience.

The objective of the internship is to provide MSIS students with an opportunity to observe and apply principles learned in graduate study in contemporary information environments, help in the development of career opportunities, and provide the intern with hands-on experience in specific work assignments.

The internship typically begins with an introduction to the facility, resources, processes, and technology of the host organization and observation of the organization’s day-to-day functioning. The majority of the intern’s time is then spent practicing professional information skills under the supervision of the mentor. Competency with current technologies and effective information resource management should increase as the student encounters, analyzes, and evaluates the problems, issues, and substance of professional practice.

Time Requirements

Students are expected to arrange a mutually agreeable schedule with the mentor to complete the 150 hours required for the internship. At the end of the 150 hours, the mentor will be asked to verify that the student has completed the time requirements. During the course of the internship, the faculty supervisor will be in contact with the mentor to assess the intern’s
experiences and progress. Students should email the faculty supervisor at each 25 hour increment of the internship experience.

**Deliverables**

Students will turn in the following items for their internship:

1. A statement of goals as established by the student and the internship mentor in their first meeting. These should be in the form of a numbered or bulleted list and should be submitted to the faculty supervisor in the first two weeks of the internship.

2. A log of hours and activities for each day or time period spent at the internship site. You should also give a copy of this document to your mentor.

3. A midpoint journal on your internship, number of hours completed to date, questions, reflections, concerns, observations. Write something (at least a paragraph) each time you have been to the internship site. *This is a private document only for the faculty supervisor.* Include a statement on how well goals are being met with any adjustments, additions, edits to the list. This should be reviewed in conjunction with the midpoint evaluation and attached to it for submission to the faculty supervisor.

4. A final journal of reflections, comments, questions for the internship experience. *This is a private document only for the faculty supervisor.* Include a statement on how well goals were met (see above) during the internship. This should be handed in at the end of the internship with the final evaluation and project description.

5. A project description of approximately five double-spaced pages with appended materials as appropriate. Each student is expected to work on at least one project during the course of the internship. You may submit multiple project descriptions although only one is required. *This is a public document that may be shared with the mentor, other faculty, and departmental staff as appropriate.*

The faculty supervisor will provide timely feedback on each of the above documents.

**Evaluation:** Completion of these requirements will constitute a grade of S (satisfactory).

1. Beginning goals statement (see above)
2. A log of hours (see above)
3. An email from the student intern each time the intern completes an additional 25 hours of time on site
4. A midpoint journal and goals statement progress report (see above)
5. 150 hours of internship experience
6. A journal of reflections, comments, and questions about the experience. (above)
7. At least one project description of approximately 5 double-spaced pages, with supporting appended materials where appropriate. (above)
8. The site mentor’s observations of the intern’s experiences and performance in the form of the Mentor Evaluation form at midpoint (75 hours) and at the end of the internship, including the final evaluation of internship goals.