

BIOLOGY INTERNSHIP GUIDELINES

Internships are opportunities for **Biology Majors** at Merrimack College to learn about and apply biological principles outside the classroom in the laboratory, work place and/or field. The benefits from participating in an internship are enormous, and include:

- Gaining practical, on-the-job experience
- Development of professional and personal confidence, responsibility, and maturity
- Understanding of the realities of the work world
- Acquisition of human relations skills
- Opportunity to examine a career choice closely and make professional contacts
- Opportunity to test the ideas learned in the classroom out in the work place
- Opportunity to make contacts with potential employers
- Enhancement of classroom experiences
- Learning what careers to pursue or not to pursue
- Development of skills that are difficult to learn and practice in the classroom
- Possible earnings to help offset college expenses

BIO 4095 Biology Internship (4 credits)

The Biology Internship is an intensive work/study experience co-supervised by the Internship Coordinator at Merrimack College, and a mentor in the work place. Students are placed according to interest in a variety of public, private or non-profit work settings, including: biomedical, pharmaceutical and/or biotechnology laboratories and facilities; medical, veterinary and/or dental clinics; and environmental and ecological positions. Prerequisites are typically Junior or Senior standing as a Biology Major and consent of the Internship Coordinator. FYI, the internship (BIO 4095) does not fulfill the Departmental upper level elective requirement.

Internship Requirements

Work/Study Experience - 100 to 150 hours over the course of a 15-week semester, co-supervised by the Internship Coordinator and a mentor in the work place.

Work Log - You should keep a written log/journal describing what you studied and learned each week focusing on what was accomplished. The log will be turned in to the Internship Coordinator at the end of the internship.

Reflective Paper - Each internship student will write a 5-page paper (12-font, double-spaced) with two components: (1) a focus on some aspect of the work you were involved in; and (2) a reflective component demonstrating how the internship influenced your personal, professional and scientific development.

Capstone Presentation - Each internship student will do a poster presentation on his or her internship at the *Annual Science and Engineering Day* in the spring semester or another approved venue.

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who can help me find internship opportunities?

You can ask any faculty member, Dr. Birnbaum our Internship Coordinator or visit the O'Brien Center for Student Success. You can also login to their Advantage system and search internship and co-op positions, full-time positions, register for events and access on campus interview schedules. The Department of Biology home page has a link to an 'Internship' page:

http://www.merrimack.edu/academics/science_engineering/biology/learning_beyond_classroom/biologyinternships/.

On this page you will find numerous links to sites that offer internship experiences. Check it out!

Can I make money during an internship?

Yes, if that is part of the agreement with your work place mentor.

Does the Biology Department place students in internship positions?

Sometimes, but there is no guarantee you will be placed in any given position. The Department will notify majors of opportunities as they arise.

Can I make my own internship contacts?

Yes, in fact we encourage students to make initial inquiries about potential internship opportunities. Please note, however, that all potential internships and contact information need to be forwarded and processed through the Internship Coordinator.

Do I need to work through the Internship Coordinator to get an internship?

The answer is yes. The Coordinator needs to ensure that the proposed experience meets the requirements for an internship for credit (BIO 4095). In addition, by working through the coordinator, we are able to develop longer-term relationships with partners in the community.

Can I do an internship in the summer and get credit for it in the fall semester?

Yes. You first need to make sure the summer internship meets the requirements for course credit (BIO 4095) before you can sign up for the course in the fall. The student will still be responsible for meeting the requirements of the internship, including the paper component and the poster presentation. There is also an option to do a zero-credit internship – check with the Internship Coordinator or the O'Brien Center for more information.

For more information and/or to explore internship opportunities and possibilities, please do not hesitate to contact the Biology Department **Internship Coordinator**, Dr. Mark Birnbaum.

Biology Department Internship Coordinator

Dr. Mark Birnbaum

Professor of Biology

Room 352 Mendel

tel (978) 837-5276

BirnbaumM@merrimack.edu

