

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 3617S
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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 33 (SPAN):

Add new course, SPAN 401, Internship

Effective Date: Fall 2017

1. Add: On page 292, new course, **SPAN 401, Internship:**

401 Internship (1-4)

A structured educational experience which provides students with opportunities to enhance their academic knowledge, improve their communicative and cultural competencies, explore career options, develop professional competencies, and observe classroom theories and principles being applied in local community contexts. Students are placed with partner organizations and businesses that relate to their career goals and learning objectives. Requirements may include readings, reflections, a major project, biweekly seminars, and a final presentation. All internship participants are required to participate in the poster sessions at the UNC Asheville Internship and Service Learning Celebration. May be repeated for a total of 4 hours credit. Prerequisites: SPAN 310, a minimum 2.5 overall GPA, junior or senior standing and permission of instructor. Summer.

Impact: The impact on students is that they will benefit from having an established program that they can anticipate and plan for as they prepare their program of study. Because the internship course is only offered in the summer at this point, students would be required to pay summer tuition, which could be cost prohibitive for some students.

The community partner will benefit by having a bright, creative, and enthusiastic intern make a meaningful contribution to their organization.

The impact on the department is that a faculty member will have to commit to teaching the internship course each summer. This should not be problematic as we have a faculty member who has initiated and is leading the internship program and has been actively engaged in several forms of experiential learning in our program for over a decade. The faculty member plans to continue her service to the department through her leadership in the internship program. Because this course is offered in the summer, university funds would have to be available to support the faculty teaching the course.

Rationale: Experiential learning is a key component of effective higher education. In the Spanish program, we have been offering internships sporadically for several years. However, with growing interest on the part of students and a greater understanding on our side of the importance of offering opportunities like internships as a means of preparing our students for their professional lives, we decided to develop and establish an internship program. Over the past year, with the support of experienced faculty mentors from across campus and the guidance of the Faculty Internships Advisory Committee (of which the instructor of this course is a member), we have made a concerted effort to build a sustainable internship program for students of Spanish. By including this course in the catalog, we are sending a clear message to students that we value experiential learning and that all students in our program have the opportunity to engage in an internship during their studies in our department.