

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD0322F
Date of Senate Approval 11/3/2022

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC 2 **Revise the Internship Policy to include all student classifications**

Effective Date: Fall 2023

[Internship Policy](#)

1. **Revise:** On page 1, in the first paragraph, by removing the third sentence:

An internship is a form of experiential learning that integrates the knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with the practical application and skill development in a professional setting. As an extension of the classroom, internships give students the opportunity to gain valuable applied experience, reflect on that experience, and make connections in professional fields. ~~Internships are available to qualified students with Junior or Senior standing, and/or departmental approval.~~ The amount of academic credit received will vary, but a minimum of 35 hours of work must be completed for each credit hour earned. Allocation of these internship hours, between fieldwork and classroom/assignment work, will be determined by the faculty supervisor. The policies for internships, and the requirements for students, faculty and host agencies, can be found on the Career Center website, <https://career.unca.edu/>.

2. **Delete:** On page 1, under **Intern Responsibilities**, references to certificate seeking and classification:

- Meet the following criteria to enroll in an internship course:
 - Be currently enrolled at UNC Asheville as degree, licensure or certificate-seeking;
 - Have junior or senior standing or receive department approval;
 - Complete the department prerequisites and application processes of the internship program.

Add: On page 1, in place of deleted entry:

- Meet the following criteria to enroll in an internship course:
 - Be currently enrolled at UNC Asheville as a degree-seeking or teacher licensure student;
 - Complete the departmental processes of the internship program.

3. **Delete:** On page 3, the definition under **Intern:**

Intern: A currently enrolled degree, licensure or certificate-seeking student at UNC Asheville who has junior or senior standing (or receives department approval) and completes the department prerequisites and application processes of the internship program.

Add: On page 3, in place of deleted entry:

Intern: A currently enrolled UNC Asheville student seeking a degree or teacher licensure who completes the departmental processes of the internship program.

UNCA Catalog

4. Delete: On page 62, the second paragraph of entry under **Internship Opportunities:**

Internships are available to qualified students with Junior or Senior standing, and/or departmental approval. Internships are available to enrolled degree-seeking or teacher licensure students. The amount of academic credit received will vary, but a minimum of 35 hours of work must be completed for each credit hour earned. Allocation of these internship hours, between fieldwork and classroom/assignment work, will be determined by the faculty supervisor.

Add: On page 62, in place of deleted entry:

Internships are available to enrolled degree-seeking or teacher licensure students. The amount of academic credit received will vary, but a minimum of 35 hours of work must be completed for each credit hour earned. Allocation of these internship hours, between fieldwork and classroom/assignment work, will be determined by the faculty supervisor.

Impact Statement: This change will make it clear that UNC Asheville values experiential learning and does not believe that students must reach a specific classification level to be able to participate in internship courses as long as they have met the departmental prerequisites. This will not change the way that students currently register for internship courses or how they are currently utilized within departments. However, it does show to our campus community and our employer community that we recognize that there is not an arbitrary number of course credits a student needs before they can contribute to, or benefit substantially from, an experiential learning opportunity.

Rationale: Internships are one of the most powerful tools available in helping students in their [career mobility](#) and [socio-economic mobility](#) after graduation. Students with freshman and sophomore standing need to have the opportunity to “test drive” specific fields before they commit within a major. There are not currently many internships for academic credit for first-year and sophomore students, but eliminating this language from the policy will create more opportunity and let students know that they can seek experiential learning early and often and do not need to wait until they are deemed qualified by course credits.

Eliminating the reference to “certificate-seeking” is editorial as we no longer have the stand-alone graduate-level certificates that were part of the Master of Liberal Arts and Sciences curriculum. The section in the catalog addressing internship opportunities has also been edited to reflect the removal of junior and senior standing.