

AC 499: SENIOR INTERNSHIP IN ACCOUNTING

Birmingham-Southern College
Summer 2022

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An experience designed to solidify and enhance students' knowledge in the accounting field. The experience may include a ten-week internship or an in-class project. Topics may include recent accounting developments, extensions of accounting concepts, and exploring basic business systems. Students electing an internship for their senior project should consult with the disciplinary faculty about the variety of internship options. 1 unit.

Prerequisites: AC 324, AC 341, and AC 421.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The internship is intended:

- To be as rigorous and challenging as campus study
- To fully integrate the student into the professional environment
- For all students to perform as an entry-level professional
- To integrate theory and practice
- To impose an analytical framework for students to learn
- To provide a school-to-work transition experience

LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of participation in the internship experiential learning project, students will be able to:

- Integrate academic knowledge and knowledge gained through experience
- Experiment with multiple conceptual frameworks to address authentic, complex challenges and problems
- Examine the relationship between potential careers and personal values, goals, and abilities
- Apply diverse perspectives, both individual and communal, to address matters of public interest

ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION

ASSIGNMENTS

The following components are required.

- Complete a minimum of 120 hours of work on site per unit for internship
- Sign, submit, and adhere to the Accounting Internship Agreement Form
- Keep a reflective journal that accounts for what is done at work on daily basis, so that the observation and analysis of this work sharpens skills in observing accurately and thinking critically
- Submit weekly reflection reports that must be uploaded to Moodle no later than each Sunday at 11pm
- Select, read, and summarize five (5) professional articles related to the internship. The first article is due the second week of the internship, with subsequent articles due each week thereafter until five articles have been read, summarized, and submitted
- Reflective paper at the end of the internship based on the daily reflective journal that relates the specific internship work to prior academic coursework
- Oral report for faculty and student audience which analyzes the financial, organizational, and managerial aspects of the firm sponsoring the internship. The presentation is REQUIRED and must be given after the conclusion of the internship. The course grade will not be submitted until after the internship presentation.

Please note that your work must be professional and you must complete all assignments by deadlines. Your grade will be negatively impacted if assignments are missing, late, or submitted with spelling/grammar mistakes. It is your responsibility to keep up with assignment due dates stated above and posted to the Moodle course website.

EVALUATION

Each internship firm and each student will provide feedback on the quality of the internship performance twice during the internship experience – once at the midway point and once at the conclusion. The faculty supervisor will determine whether the intern has performed at a high professional level, has addressed the internship's goals, has completed all requirements of the internship, and has been cooperative with both the firm and the faculty supervisor. Failure to complete any of these requirements could result in a failing grade. The following infractions are representative of issues which could result in a failing grade: use of cell phone during working hours, unauthorized missed days of work without a valid excuse and/or without notifying the firm and faculty supervisor in advance of the absence, use of firm computers for personal entertainment purposes, and other behaviors which display a lack of responsibility and professionalism.

The final internship presentation is REQUIRED by the College. No course grade will be submitted until AFTER the presentation. Failure to present will result in a failing grade for the course.

Other evaluated/graded components of the course include: 10 weekly reflection reports (20%), 5 article summaries (10%), and the final reflective paper (10%). These must be submitted on Moodle no later than the deadline and must be professionally prepared in order to receive full credit.

Please, keep the Birmingham-Southern College Honor Code in mind as you complete the internship and academic assignments for this course.

As a member of the student body of Birmingham-Southern College, I recognize my responsibility to the traditions of the institution, to my fellow students and to myself. I recognize the significance of the honor system. I pledge that I have read and understand the Constitution of the Honor Council, including the Honor Code, and agree to be bound by its provisions.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Business and Accounting integrates and applies knowledge gained from a liberal arts education to the practical realm of organizational life. The department provides an undergraduate education that is distinctive by its focus on innovations in the marketplace that is coupled with cultural awareness and ethical leadership. Graduates are prepared to become managers and leaders in a variety of organizational settings. The faculty are committed primarily to teaching and advising, and they engage in professional development and scholarship that enriches the dynamics of teaching and learning.

VISION STATEMENT

Birmingham-Southern College's Department of Business will be built on the distinction of teaching organizational leadership and management in a traditional liberal arts setting. The Department will be dedicated to fostering a collaborative learning community that nurtures and develops students driven by entrepreneurial thinking, global and cultural awareness, and ethical practice.

STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The faculty of the Department of Business, both collectively and as individual professors, feel that students should be accountable for developing the work habits and personal discipline which will be expected of them after graduation as professional members of the business community. It is just as important that students reach satisfactory standards of written and oral communication skills as it is that they learn a satisfactory amount of accounting or management or marketing or finance. It is just as important that students learn integrity and professional responsibility as it is that they learn economics or statistics.

Toward this end, students will demonstrate an ethical foundation and practice professional responsibility.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The student must understand the professional relationship he or she has with the internship organization. Any specific information, business plans, materials, etc. that are accessible, or to which the student contributes, or develops during the internship are the proprietary property of the organization. This professional relationship and responsibility must be recognized and honored by the student.