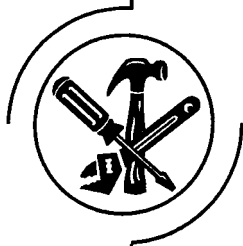


**Student Internships in Occupational  
and Environmental Safety & Health**



## What's Involved in an Internship?

The internship is a mandatory part of the undergraduate curriculum in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Safety & Health. The students spend the final se-



mester of their academic career working in an organization under the supervision of a safety or environmental professional, the Site Supervisor, helping him or her resolve organization's occupational or environmental safety and health problems. During the semester the students return to campus three times for afternoon seminars where they share their experiences with their fellow interns. Also during the semester a member of the Department faculty (Fieldwork Supervisors) visits the intern to ensure adequate progress.

In addition to attending the three seminars, interns are required to keep a daily log of their activities, prepare a portfolio of major accomplishments during the internship, and provide two cost-benefit analyses from projects they worked on.

## How are Interns Placed?

Placing interns with companies is a matching process that begins with the Internship Coordinator. The Coordinator has a pool of students seeking internships and a list of companies that have expressed an interest in sponsoring an intern. Based on the requirements of the companies and the desires of the students, possible matches are identified. The company is then provided with a resume and transcript of intern candidates. If there is interest on the company's part, the company notifies the Coordinator and then calls the student directly to arrange for an interview. If the company feels there is a match, the company extends an internship offer to the student. If the offer is accepted, the company calls the Internship Coordinator and an agreement is prepared that is signed by the Internship Coordinator, the Director of Field Experiences and the Intern. The contract is then forwarded to the Site Supervisor for their signature and must be returned before the intern may begin work.

## What are People Saying About the Internship?

*My internship experience was remarkable. It gave me the opportunity to take the safety skills and ideas I learned at UWW and apply them in the field under supportive supervision.*

Joel Dickinson  
Associate Safety Director  
AGC of Greater Milwaukee

*We have used the program five times and hired four interns as full time employees. The knowledge level is exceptional and consistent.*

Joe Gumola  
Associate Facilities Manager  
Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

### **To sponsor an intern contact:**

E. Andrew Kapp, Ph.D.  
Fieldwork Internship Coordinator  
Occupational and Environmental Safety & Health  
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater  
800 West Main Street  
Whitewater, WI 53190

Phone: (262) 472-5423

Fax: (262) 472-1091

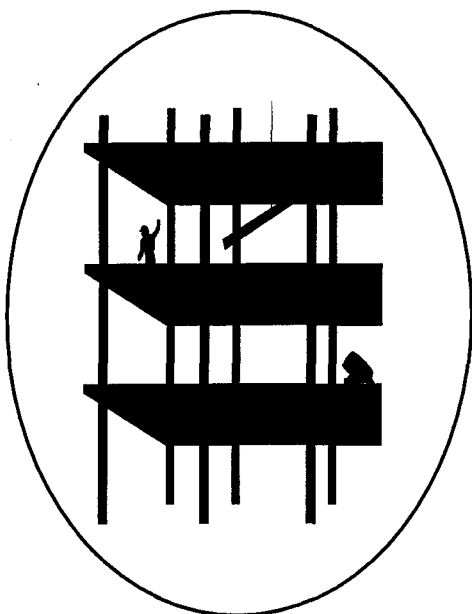
Email: [kappa@mail.uww.edu](mailto:kappa@mail.uww.edu)

## Supervising Student Interns

The interns are subject to the same rules as other employees. In the rare circumstance that performance is deemed unacceptable, the intern may be terminated at the company's discretion. The Site Supervisor, Intern and Fieldwork Supervisor are usually able to resolve any problems before reaching this stage.

Please keep in mind that the interns are still students, and while they may have good technical knowledge of Occupational and Environmental Safety & Health, they lack practical experience. They need guidance and direction to apply their knowledge to help the company improve safety and health and gain the most from the internship opportunity. In the past most problems that arose involved either excessive expectations on the part of the company or lack of meaningful work for the intern.

Most companies that sponsor our students as interns are "repeat customers", though not necessarily back to back semesters. We believe this shows the value of this program to both students and companies.



*Companies in the construction, service and general industry sectors have sponsored student interns*

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