

Fruth Summer Internships in Economics and Public Policy 2016

The Department of Economics offers funding for internships with government and non-profit organizations. While the private sector offers many paid opportunities for students, given the missions of the colleges and their Benedictine traditions, the department encourages students to consider opportunities in government and non-profit sectors to engage in work that allows them to use their economic and quantitative reasoning skills to support the work of these organizations while also gaining experience that will assist them discerning their longer-term vocational interests. Previous interns have worked with the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development, the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, and Wilder Research.

Following is a discussion of eligibility requirements, the application process, and expectations for student interns.

Eligibility

1. Students must have completed Econ 332, Econ 333, and MT124 before the start of the summer in which they have an internship.
2. Must have a declared **major OR minor** in economics.
3. Students must have a minimum of a 3.0 G.P.A. in economics and overall.
4. Given the quantitative nature of jobs and expectations of internship supervisors, students with additional quantitative training (e.g., ECON 334, CSCI130/150, MT318) will be given **preference** in the application process.

Provisions and Expectations

1. Student will receive compensation equivalent to \$5,000 for their summer internship. The amount paid will depend on the length of the internship, required hours worked, and whether the internship provides any compensation. If a student is receiving some compensation or other support, the total compensation from all sources may not exceed \$5,000.
2. Payments for internship are handled in collaboration with the student employment office.
3. Students will serve as an ambassador encouraging future applicants.
4. By the end of the first week of the fall semester, interns will provide a 4 to 5 page reflection paper on how the opportunity permitted them to use their economics and quantitative training and assisted them in their vocational planning.

Application Process

- A. An information session will be held during the last week of classes in the fall of 2015. Individuals interested in applying should attend this session.
- B. There are two tracks for this summer internship program. Applicants should indicate whether they plan to pursue Track 1 or Track 2 opportunities.
 - a. Before moving forward with the selection process, the chair of the department of economics will meet with candidates to discuss this program and the different processes of obtaining internships. This program has helped and will help fund unpaid internships through a variety of government and non-profit organizations. Past participants have worked in Minnesota government agencies and non-profits, but participant in programs such as the Washington, DC internship program are also eligible to apply for these funds.
 - b. Track 1: Internship Site Already Located
 - i. If the candidate is in the process of making arrangements for an unpaid or relatively low pay internship with a government or non-profit entity (either in their home states, internationally, or in Washington, DC), the candidate should provide a preliminary description of the type of internship being sought.
 - ii. Final approval for funding of such internships requires that the applicant provide a job description and/or have a letter from the internship site that explains how the intern will be able to apply economic concepts, data analysis, and critical reasoning in the internship. **This information is not required at the time of application, but if such information is available, it is recommended that the applicant provide it.**
 - c. Track 2: Internship Placement Assistance Needed
 - i. Given that some applicants might be unaware of potential opportunities, the department will work with candidates to seek appropriate placements with government or non-profit entities.
- C. A completed application will include the following information.
 - a. Name, Major, Minor, G.P.A. in economics and overall.
 - b. A brief explanation of interest in using economics and quantitative skills in the workplace and in future career. (200 words)
 - c. For Track 1 applicants, students must provide details on the term and compensation, if any, of the internship.
 - d. Students must declare if they are receiving funding from any other sources.
 - e. An unofficial copy of the student transcript.
- D. Applications are due on Friday, January 15th (submitted in a single MSword or pdf document to pwheatley@csbsju.edu).

Selection Process.

- A. The faculty of the economics department will review the applications.
- B. Departmental decisions will be based on the quality of the application and qualifications of applicants. Students who have already secured an appropriate internship placements will receive preference.
- C. Once candidates have been judged to have adequate preparation for consideration to participate in this program, they will meet with the department chair to discuss the placement process further.
- D. For candidates who need placement, the placements will occur in collaboration with internship sites.
- E. Internship placement will be rolling, but it is expected that candidates will be placed or interviewing for placement by the middle of March. Both Track 1 and Track 2 applicants will need to have evidence from the internship site that the job will provide significant opportunities to “to apply economic concepts, data analysis, and critical reasoning in the internship.”