Dori Gilels, Publisher/COO for Mamalode, encourages all students to seek valuable internship experiences to help shape their careers. “UM interns bring a great deal of capacity, new ideas and talent to Mamalode. And we, in turn, provide a very unique opportunity for students to see, experience and contribute to all aspects of our business and to specialize in particular areas of interest and expertise.”

What is the mission of Mamalode?

“To create connections for moms through the publication of authentic stories via print and digital products and through live events.”

What does your work entail?

“Mamalode is a small but dynamic business. We have a core team of six staff, many of whom wear multiple hats – editorial, sales, operations, website, social media, distribution and events. Mamalode has a central office in MonTEC, an organization of the University of Montana that provides office space for rent to a community of high growth business enterprises. We have a weekly staff meeting where we all come together to plan, collaborate, debrief and execute on the business of Mamalode. We run a year long program in Missoula for readers, writers and advertisers that includes three print magazines, numerous live events and a series of digital products. We also cater to a global audience of readers and writers online seven days a week.”

How does having UM student interns help your company?

“Mamalode has hosted interns from the UM School of Business, Media Arts and the School of Journalism for the last five or six years. UM interns bring a great deal of capacity, new ideas and talent to Mamalode. And we, in turn, provide a very unique
opportunity for students to see, experience and contribute to all aspects of our business and to specialize in particular areas of interest and expertise."

Roughly, how much time do your student interns work a week? Are they allowed a flexible schedule?

“The amount of time students work for Mamalode varies student to student in terms of credit, availability and interest. Our business structure allows us to cater to a wide variety of students. Flexible schedules and self-directed, independent work are a big part of our office culture."

What is the work environment like?

“Mamalode is a fun, casual and busy environment to work in. We are deadline oriented and we always have lots of wheels spinning and balls in the air. Mamalode staff have a great deal of autonomy and plenty of room for experimentation. We welcome new ideas from all team members."

What sort of experiences do you provide interns?

“We provide a wide range of experiences for each intern. We encourage them to participate in staff meetings to learn about Mamalode’s business as a whole. We run a professional development series for the public that interns can help plan and are invited to attend. We have had numerous interns conduct research and analyses for Mamalode to better understand readers and to assess strategic growth opportunities. We also occasionally bring professionals into the office to help us plan and evaluate new programs. Mamalode often partners with, hosts events in support of and speaks for numerous local and national organizations and causes (i.e. Mountain Home Montana - a transitional home for young moms between the ages of 16-24, Western Montana Suicide Prevention Initiative, Missoula Food Bank, etc. ). Interns are always invited to participate in any and all Mamalode activities during their time with us."

Did you do an internship as a student? How did your own experiences as student shape your career?

“I did not have or take advantage of internship opportunities as an undergraduate student. I did, however, have some wonderful internships and volunteer opportunities as part of my graduate studies at UM. Those experiences absolutely shaped my career, helped me build a professional network in Montana and gave me valuable practical skills and insight."
Do you have any advice for students seeking internships or other experiences in your field?

“Missoula’s business community is vibrant, globally conscious and uniquely accessible to students at UM. The local economy is growing and there are a variety of locally manufactured products, services and industries here. Internships can lead to jobs, valuable referrals and an opportunity to gain personal and professional insight. Running a business in today’s world of media and publishing isn’t easy, but it is full of opportunity if you are open to it. Integrity, creativity, strong communication skills and a commitment to quality will always pay and prevail.”

When and how do you advertise for interns? Are they paid opportunities?

“We have worked closely with professors at UM to identify interns and to inform students about opportunities. We have also participated in the internship fairs at UM and we are frequently invited to speak to numerous classes in business, journalism and media arts. Students sometimes contact us directly and independently. We often host more than one and up to four or five interns at a time. We occasionally have paid opportunities or extensions of internships at Mamalode.”

Are you looking for students from specific majors, years in school, or with special qualifications?

“Mamalode has had a great experience with interns from the School of Journalism, the School of Business and the Media Arts Program. It is particularly useful for student interns at Mamalode to have skills in any or all of the following: writing, marketing, design, video production, photography, social media and business development. We do not have a specific requirement for years in school, but our interns are most often juniors and seniors in the departments and programs listed above.”

Where can students get more information?

“Students can get more information by contacting our digital director, Leland Buck, who is also an adjunct professor at UM, at Leland@mamalode.com.”

Is there anything else students should know about interning with your company?

“We’re smart, we work hard, have lots of fun and we’re good at turning obstacles into opportunities.”