

Course Syllabus: NPAD 598 Internship- Professional Certificate

Professor/Internship Advisor:

Dr. Adam Brewer

-Office: LAW #148

-Office Hours: By appointment.

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Communication with Internship Advisor:

The professor can be reached via email from 8am-5pm (M-F) for inquiries. Please allow for up to 24 hours for a response. Unless an emergency, student email inquiries sent over the weekend, will be addressed on Mondays. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you at any point during the semester. Please contact me to set up a meeting over Zoom.

Course Description:

This course is the culminating experience in the student's academic preparation with the University of Montana's Nonprofit Professional Certificate. The internship is the bridge between academia and the professional nonprofit world. It is designed as an active student-centered learning experience that also meets the needs of the host nonprofit organization. This experience affords students the opportunity to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have acquired during the formal academic process, and gain professional skills that will enhance their employability. The internship host organization benefits from the student's expertise and abilities, and the student benefits from exposure to a "real world laboratory" which allows them to apply theoretical knowledge and gain practical experience. This is a service learning course.

Service Learning is a method of teaching and learning in which students, faculty and community partners work together to enhance student learning by applying academic knowledge in a community-based setting. Student work addresses the needs of the community, as identified through collaboration with community or tribal partners, while meeting instructional objectives through faculty-structured service work and critical reflection meant to prepare students to be civically responsible members of the community. At its best, service learning enhances and deepens students' understanding of an academic discipline by facilitating the integration of theory and practice, while providing them with experience that develops life skills and engages them in critical reflection about individual, institutional, and social ethics.

Course Learning Objectives:

In completing this internship, students will be able to:

- Apply classroom knowledge to the laboratory of the work world to test theories, concepts and philosophies.
- Test and develop management, supervision and leadership skills.
- Demonstrate an understanding of nonprofit administration competencies.
- Develop valuable contacts in the field by networking with nonprofit professionals.
- Observe and develop the values/ethics of the nonprofit profession, and assume professional responsibilities and substantive tasks.
- Develop motivation and self-confidence as a nonprofit professional.

- Understand and help to meet needs of a nonprofit organization and the community it serves.

Professional Nonprofit Competencies:

Interns should seek to make as many of the competency areas below a part of their internship experience:

Strategic Planning, Grant Writing, Nonprofit Board Management, Fundraising, Nonprofit Accounting and Financial Management, Nonprofit Human Resource Management, Nonprofit Volunteer Management, Nonprofit Program Planning and Evaluation, Advocacy and Public Policy, Nonprofit Leadership, Others upon approval

Prerequisites prior to beginning the internship:

Approval from the internship advisor or department chair is required for registration in the internship. Additionally, students should complete two to three courses in the certificate program before beginning the internship. To obtain approval, please complete the [Internship Registration Request](#) survey. After approval has been granted, the advisor will send the registrant a link to register online for the internship.

Internship Placement and Academic Requirements:

Students are required to identify the personal, academic, and professional goals they would like to meet through the internship experience. Students will then work with the internship advisor to identify a community organization they would like to work with and arrange an internship placement. All students must serve under the direction of a supervisor at their service learning internship site. Students are not allowed to use current employment as their internship.

Students are required to work at least 6-8 per week for an entire semester (15 weeks) for 4 credits. This should amount to about 90-120 in total hours worked. Internships that fall outside of these parameters should be discussed with the internship advisor.

Each student will complete the following academic requirements in conjunction with their internship:

1. Complete Experiential Learning Agreement within the first week of the semester. To do this, visit the [Office of Experiential Learning website](#) and scroll down to “Report Your Internship”. Click the button shown and you will be directed to log in to “Gradleaders” using your UM Net ID and password. Gradleaders is the system that UM uses to keep track of experiential learning opportunities university-wide like your internship. Once you are in the system, you will be able to fill out the experiential learning agreement. In completing this form, you should work with your internship supervisor at your place of employment to identify learning objectives prior to the start of the internship. You are required to include these learning objectives as you fill out the agreement. Once submitted, your internship advisor will either approve or reject the agreement. If rejected, you will be required to go back and make modifications to the learning objectives based upon the feedback received. For a step-by-step guide to using Gradleaders, see the attachments provided by the internship advisor in the welcome email sent out at the beginning of the semester. If you experience difficulty filling out the experiential learning agreement, first refer to these guides. If you continue to experience difficulty, contact the internship advisor.

2. Monthly Reflective Journal Entries: At the end of each month of the internship, students need to submit a 1-paragraph journal entry for each week (e.g. 4 weekly entries for each month of the semester). These should include a description, and more importantly, a thoughtful reflection on what the student has done in the internship and how those experiences and observations connect to what they have learned in the class. Students can also include questions or concerns to the internship advisor about their internship experience. These should be submitted directly to the internship advisor on the last day of the month (via email) by 11:59pm (MST). Here are some topics to consider as you write these reflections:

- What you are learning in relation to nonprofit administration competencies?
- How you are applying theories and concepts learned in the core coursework?
- How are you serving to meet organizational and/or community needs?

3. Internship Analysis Report: The report should amount to about 4-6 pages in length. It should identify the main the lessons to be learned from the internship and draw heavily on content from the nonprofit courses offering insightful reflections on the internship experience. The focus and nature of the paper should be centered on how the student applied theory to practice in their internship experience. This reflection should also be seen as an applied research opportunity requiring students to work with their organization to identify a research-related need pertinent for the organization and the professional nonprofit competencies areas listed above. The report should outline how the intern applied some (not necessary all) of the competency areas. You may not re-use assignments you have done for any other classes for this report. The final report is due the last day of the semester at 11:59pm.

4. Take the student Gradleaders survey (sent to student's email near the end of the semester)

5. Encourage your supervisor to take their Gradleaders survey (sent to supervisor's email near the end of the semester). Student will not be penalized if the supervisor opts to not take the survey.

Advisor Site Visits:

The internship advisor, circumstances permitting, may visit the intern's workplace for a site visit. These site visits usually last only 15-20 minutes one time per semester (remote or in person) and allow the intern to demonstrate their workplace and introduce the advisor to their co-workers and supervisor.

Course Grades:

For your internship, you will receive either a "pass" or "fail" grade dependent upon your performance in the above work and academic requirements. In order to meet the minimum expectations for passing, the student must complete all of the assignments above. Additionally, if a student receives a poor evaluation from their supervisor, the internship advisor may issue a "fail" grade.

Guidelines for Written Work

All written assignments should meet the following criteria unless otherwise noted in the assignment instructions or the professor:

1. All work must be typed, double-spaced, utilize 12 point times new roman font, and have one-inch margins.
2. Citations should follow a proper style guidelines such as, but not limited to, MLA, Chicago, or APA (in-text citations and a reference page are necessary).
3. Assignments are due on the date/time listed in the course schedule; late assignments will not be accepted.
4. All assignments must be turned in electronically via Microsoft Word. If the instructor cannot open the document, the student will not receive a grade. Submission of assignments via e-mail will not be accepted unless specific arrangements have been made.
5. Written work will be evaluated both in terms of content, following instructions, organization, and writing/grammar.
6. Student collusion is not allowed for individual assignments (unless working in an approved team) and will be treated as an act of plagiarism.

Important Policies and Expectations

Credits Received

Internships should be developed in consultation with the internship advisor. Internships count as either 4 credits and can be completed at any point during the calendar year. Internship can begin mid-semester.

Note about Professionalism

Students are expected to be professional, punctual, and demonstrate a willingness to work hard and learn each and every day. Remember, you are not only representing the MPA program, but the University of Montana. Your performance (or lack thereof) will influence how future students are perceived and whether or not the organization continues to accept interns from our program. Please maintain a high standard of performance throughout the internship.

Note on Technology

No “technology problem” excuses will be accepted in this class. That is, you cannot blame your failure to complete an assignment on time on “computer/internet/Moodle issues” (unless it was one that affected the whole class, in which case we will address the issue on a class-wide basis). Many of you already have Microsoft OneDrive on your computers or use UMBox or Dropbox. If you happen to lose all your work because you made the choice to not back it up, you will have to start over and begin again.

Note on Late Work

Late assignments are not accepted. Extensions are only provided (1) If an emergency situation arises and you inform me BEFORE the due date, then I will consider your unique circumstances and make a decision. (2) If you have a disability AND have sent me an accommodation letter from Disability Services.

Note on Academic Honesty

Students must follow the University’s policies for academic dishonesty. All work submitted must be your own; no duplicate work (work completed for another class) will not be accepted. Acts of

cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Moreover, acts of plagiarism will also be reported to the Academic Court. To avoid acts of plagiarism, cite each reference or source you use and give proper credit for the ideas, opinions, and findings of others. When you are using the exact words of others, you must use quotation marks and include the page number where you found the quote in your citation. For help on avoiding plagiarism, see the following resources from the [UM Writing and Public Speaking Center](#).

Note on Sexual Misconduct

UM prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in its education programs or activities. Prohibited sex discrimination includes incidents of sexual harassment (including sexual violence), dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking (collectively “sexual misconduct”). As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. University policy requires that I report all incidents of sexual misconduct that come to my attention. If you encounter sexual misconduct, please contact the Title IX Coordinator at (406)243-5710. Additional information about sexual misconduct and available resources can be found on the [UM Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action website](#).

Note on Student Disability Related Needs

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that adversely affects your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Cultural Leave Policy

UM has a Cultural and Ceremonial Leave Policy: “Cultural or ceremonial leave allows excused absences for cultural, religious, and ceremonial purposes to meet the student’s customs and traditions or to participate in related activities. To receive an authorized absence for a cultural, religious or ceremonial event the student or their advisor (proxy) must submit a formal written request to the instructor. This must include a brief description (with inclusive dates) of the cultural event or ceremony and the importance of the student’s attendance or participation. Authorization for the absence is subject to approval by the instructor. Appeals may be made to the Chair, Dean or Provost. The excused absence or leave may not exceed five academic calendar days (not including weekends or holidays). Students remain responsible for completion or make-up of assignments as defined in the syllabus, at the discretion of the instructor.”