

Frequently Asked Questions about Internships

How long is a typical internship?

Internships typically last between three and nine months and can be conducted during the fall, spring, or summer terms. Internships can be either full-time (usually between 30-40 hours a week) or part-time (less than 30 hours a week) or a combination thereof - such as part-time during the spring or fall semester and full-time over the summer. Depending on an employer's specific internship program however, the duration, timing, and full/part-time status may vary.

Are internships paid or unpaid?

Internships can be paid or unpaid depending on the structure of the employers' internship program, the specific career field and/or the job market supply and demand. If paid, the compensation varies greatly among employers, area of study, and geographic location. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), the average hourly wage for interns at the bachelor's degree-level is \$17.20. In some career fields, unpaid internships are common and are the best way to get career-related experience. Students pursuing unpaid internships may be eligible to receive support through scholarships.

Do you receive academic credit for an internship?

Many majors require an internship for their area of study, which provides academic credit for the internship experience. If not required, internships are highly recommended and supported for all students on campus, and a student *may* still receive credit if they enroll in an Institutional Course (IC). An IC can be for-credit, or not-for-credit, and is designed to support all students pursuing internships and provides them with the opportunity to examine the practical effects of their studies and to gain skills to be successful.

When should I start looking for an internship?

Right now! Even if you feel it is too early, meet with a Student Success Advisor to talk about your timeline, resume, cover letter, LinkedIn profile, and Career Connect profile. Many employers start recruiting the previous fall (or earlier) for their next summer internship opportunity so having advanced preparation will only benefit you.

How do I prepare for an internship?

Edgewood College is committed to supporting students pursuing an enriched learning experience through an internship. An internship preparation course is available to all students, where they will be equipped with knowledge for procuring internships, develop a growth mindset, and explore behavioral and professional skills which will prepare them for their internship experience. This course creates a learning pathway that reinforces the COR values of Edgewood College by applying academic knowledge to ethical action in the workplace.

You can meet with someone in the Career Development Department, through the Center for Student Success. They can help you get professionally ready by reviewing your resume, cover letter, LinkedIn profile, etc. They can also help you get ready for your interview and show you the Internship Agreement Form that allows you to identify learning objectives for your internship experience, as well as a mid and end of internship assessment tool you can use with your internship supervisor to review the objectives you identified at the beginning of your internship experience!

If your area of study has a career development/internship coordinator, they are also a great resource! They can help you review what the requirements for an internship are in your area of study.

Additionally, they can discuss what is required of you in order to obtain credit (if applicable) and get the most out of your experience.

Edgewood College, in partnership with the Career Development Department (CDD), also offers professional development events for all students to attend. Each semester the CDD hosts Mock Interviews where students can practice their interviewing skills with employers, a Career Mixer for students to engage and network with representatives from a wide range of organizations, and executive speaker and career panel series where students can learn from experts on a variety of time relevant topics.

How do I find an internship?

The Career Development Department has developed many tools to support all students in their internship search. Our online career management system, Handshake, allows students to create a profile for employers to view, upload a resume for evaluation and approval by a Student Success Advisor, and search for available internship positions. Additionally, students have a relationship with Student Success Advisors throughout their time at Edgewood College. They can make a 1:1 appointment or come to drop-in hours to assist them at any point in their internship preparation, reflection, or search.

What skills are employers looking for in an intern?

According to NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers), the most highly regarded skills in interns are:

- ability to work in a team
- obtain and process information
- organizational and planning skills
- verbal and written communications skills
- decision-making/problem-solving skills

Edgewood College offers many avenues for all students to develop these essential employability skills, including an internship preparation course where they will be equipped with knowledge for procuring internships, develop a growth mindset, and explore behavioral and professional skills and an Institutional Course (IC) - for-credit and not-for-credit classes - to provide further opportunities for students to engage in their learning through internships. These courses are designed to provide all students with the opportunity to examine the practical implications of their studies and to gain skills to enable them to be successful professionals.

Can I do an internship abroad?

With support from the Center for Global Education and the CDD, Edgewood College offers international internship opportunities for students. The International Internship Cohort program is a hybrid study abroad program which offers students an independent professional development opportunity while benefiting from a group structured environment. Students participate in an 8-week internship program during the summer, and intern in the same location together. Placements are personalized for each student's major and area of focus. Participants enrolled in an internship course abroad, may be able to count the experience toward their major specific internship course requirement (if applicable). Other International internships programs are also available and supported on campus.

Students wishing to learn more are encouraged to consult with their faculty advisor:

success@edgewood.edu.

Will an internship turn into a job?

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), nearly half of all internships convert into a full-time position with that employer. Often times, students at Edgewood College choose to experience multiple internships, to further deepen their knowledge and skill base – which makes them even more attractive candidates.