

# What qualifies as an internship?

Internships are opportunities for students to explore different career paths and gain professional experience outside of the classroom. For an internship to count for credit, it must have the following qualities:

1. An internship is a learning opportunity; therefore, the student must have a mentor at the company who can help guide their work.
2. The student must be able to produce professional-quality work that is used by the company in some way. Menial tasks should not comprise the bulk of a student's internship.
3. The student and their mentor should be able to develop at least three learning goals the student will fulfill during the term.
4. The student must be able to complete the required hours for the number of credits they chose to take. For each credit, a student should work around 40 hours. Therefore, a student who signs up for a 3-credit internship should be able to document 100-120 hours by the end of the term.
5. The student's professional mentor needs to be prepared to report on their intern's work a few times throughout the term.
6. The student should be able to produce work they can use to build a professional portfolio, which will be the final product the student has to submit at the end of the term.
7. An internship mentor cannot be a person's family member, and an internship cannot be served at a family business.