

Internship Evaluation and Assessment
Feedback from Students Ay 2014-2015 – AY 2015-2016

Strengths

“The mid-quarter conference was helpful to make sure we were on the right track.”

“It was helpful to set goals and objectives as the start of the internship.”

“I like that the [RPTA] department sees the value in getting into the work force and making us experience what life is like after college. It is a great transition for us college graduates. This way we are not bombarded with the fact that we will be working five days a week for the rest of our life!”

“I believe that Cal Poly does a great job making this an easy and stress free experience for the participating organizations as well as the students.”

“It is really open to whatever the student is wanting to do and what they are wanting out of this experience.”

“The papers every two weeks were a good checkup and learning assessment of the internship program...sometimes they felt like busy work, but I understand the importance to check in and keep in touch with the intern/internship.”

“Building the internship into the RPTA curriculum is an excellent way for students to wrap up their undergraduate career with full-time experience.”

“The bi-weekly evaluations are a great checkpoint.”

“I think the strongest point of the internship program is the way it's structured. Outlining goals and objectives before-hand really helped me get the most out of my experience. Ten weeks goes by quickly, so when you have a set of tasks to accomplish, it's a nice backbone that allows for lots of learning experience to fall into place. In addition to the goals and objectives, the biweekly reports were just enough to help me actively reflect on my experiences, but not too much to the point that they took away from my ability to focus on the work I'm assigned at my internship.”

“Organized, straight forward, great opportunity for students.”

“I think the 463 class was one of the strongest aspects of the internship program. It really helped make it clear that we needed to do in order to excel in the class. I also think the midterm meeting was really helpful because I got the chance to sit down with [my instructor] and [my agency supervisor] and have a great discussion about how the internship was going.”

“The biweekly reports are a good way to help the student evaluate their experience and if it is meeting their expectations.”

Weaknesses

“I did not like the biweekly reports because I felt that I was learning more of the technical skills and then had to go out of my way to find the information required for the progress reports because they did not necessarily go along with what I was working on at my internship.”

“The biweekly reports are somewhat of a pain, but they kept me accountable and on top of my goals.”

“If the student gets into an internship and isn’t fully set on that career choice, after they are done they almost have to start from square one.”

“PolyLearn would be a helpful platform for students to upload documents and have all of their paperwork in one area for future reference.”

“Not being able to do the internship until after all courses are completed is much less beneficial for the student than having the option to complete it after junior year, for example...It is not ideal to be an intern post-grad [meaning after coursework is completed] as most students would like a chance to commit to a full time job following graduation.

Suggestions for improvement

“I would suggest restructuring the biweekly reports to have more flexibility rather than being about a set topic each week.”

“[help the] students specify down to what the student fully wants his/her career to be and make sure that internship will fulfill their wants/needs.”

“Have the agency do less paperwork.”

“A more structured format to schedule on-site visits. The internship advisor could upload his/her available times and then student could choose a time that already works for the advisor.”

“Three reports in 10 weeks instead of 5.”