

**Course Primary Syllabus**  
**Sociology 488**  
**Internship Experience - Unpaid**  
**3 credit hours**

**Course Description**

Unpaid supervised field experience in a business, industrial, governmental, educational, or other setting. Supervision will be jointly provided by sociology faculty and employers. May earn up to 6 credits total from internships SOC 369 and SOC 488.

Prerequisite: permission of sociology internship coordinator and the department chairperson.

A total of 6 credits may be earned, but no more than 3 in any one semester or term.

**Course Learning Objectives**

The course objectives include:

- ...to provide field experience in a professional setting
- ...to encourage dialogue between student and employer about the professional arena
- ...to foster hands-on experience in professional arena
- ...to encourage professional development and anticipatory socialization into a career
- ...to provide breadth and depth to course offerings
- ...to support innovative approaches student directed learned

also,

- ... to provide students with a sociologically based theoretical framework within which to analyze the profession selected.
- ... to give students an opportunity to study their own internship experience within a sociological framework
- ... to familiarize students with the relevant literature within the profession selected
- ... to familiarize students with current sociological trends in the profession selected
- ... to place the professional field within a larger social context and examine the linkages between academia and the workplace.

**Course Rationale**

This course is designed to be an elective that will serve to provide students and faculty with access to individualized student-directed learning outside of the traditional classroom structure.

**Course Content**

It is recommended that each course, regardless of the internship site, should address the following content areas:

- Sociological theory relevant to the topic

- Sociological methods relevant to the topic
- Classic literature related to the topic
- Current literature related to the topic
- Connections between the work done in sociology in this area and other disciplines
- Reflection on the experience in the context of coursework.
- Personal reflection as it relates to career options.
- A critical evaluation of topic from a variety of perspectives
- Future trends

### **Policy Statement**

Faculty will include required syllabi statements and resources in accordance with BSU policies and academic best practices.

### **Format**

We recommend that the faculty member and student establish a learning contract of the reading, writing, and other assignments to be completed in the course. The office of Student Voluntary Services can assist with the placement and oversight of internship placements. Student and faculty member should meet periodically to discuss the experience and various assignments. There should be a final report or project associated with the experience.

### **Evaluation of the Course**

In accordance with BSU policies and academic best practices, students will provide anonymous feedback using the University-approved evaluation instrument.

### **Bibliography**

Bibliographic materials may be selected when the area has been identified by the student and faculty member.

Baird, B. N., & Mollen, D. (2023). *The internship, practicum, and field placement handbook: A guide for the helping professions*. Routledge.

Brown, L. K., & Jones, M. T. (Eds.). (2021). *Internships and career development: Theory and practice*. University Press.

Khoury, Robert J. and John Selby (21021) *How to Intern Successfully: Insights & Actions to Optimize Your Experience*. Waterside Publishers.