

Appendix E: OUS – Approved Internships

GOAL

Begin tracking internships through the SCARF database to supplement surveys of recent graduates conducted annually by OUS for the performance indicator process. Internship data will be reported as unduplicated headcount enrollment by academic year beginning the summer term (for example, beginning summer 2002 through spring 2003).

PROCESS

The Internship Indicator Group, comprised of representatives appointed by six of the seven campuses, met three times before reaching consensus on the overall principle and criteria to be used.

- Members of this group appointed by institutional provosts included George Kartsounes (OIT), Mary Ellen Fleeger (SOU), Sabah Randhawa (OSU), Terrel Rhodes (PSU), Kathi Ketcheson (PSU) Terral Schut, (EOU), and Karen Sprague (UO).
- Nancy Goldschmidt, serving as chair, and Bob Kieran, Director of Institutional Research Services, participated from the Chancellor's Office.

The work group agreed that the criteria for an “internship” should be focused, but allowed individual campus discretion to design appropriate student experiences (e.g., required or optional, credit or noncredit).

Course coding changes were implemented in Fall 2002. Campuses are not in full compliance with requirements. As a result, we are unable to use the data. A major effort in the 2003-04 reporting cycle will ensure a more consistent implementation by the campuses.

CODING

The Academic Council approved the recommendation in March 2002 creating two codes to track student participation in internships.

P = OUS-Approved Internship - A course designed for the practical application of academic knowledge and skills that provides vocational exposure to a discipline or profession within a supervised work setting. Approved internships must identify the skill set or outcomes that participants are expected to attain and meet criteria established by OUS.

For a course to be counted as an “OUS-approved internship,” it must meet all five criteria as follows:

- 1) Involves the direct application of academic knowledge and skills in a work setting (outside of regular classroom);
- 2) Is approved by an academic body and part of a program of studies;

- 3) Is supervised by both a faculty member/university employee and an on-site supervisor who occupies a position at the managerial/professional level;
- 4) Identifies skill set/outcomes to be attained; and
- 5) Produces a final product that includes an assessment of outcomes.

Examples of credit and non-credit internship experiences include student teaching, clinical internships, community service learning, or capstones that meet the established criteria.

Institutions will code experiential learning courses according to the criteria identified. If a course is experiential, but does not meet all five criteria for OUS-Approved Internship, it would be coded as "E".

E = Other Experiential/Cooperative Education - An opportunity designed to provide supervised training, practical applications, or vocational exposure to a discipline or profession but does not meet all of the criteria established by OUS.

Examples of credit and non-credit experiential education include research outside of academic course/program excluding individual research ("N") and volunteer activities.

IMPLEMENTATION

Campuses will begin coding experiential courses into one of two types by Fall 2002. The objective is to begin tracking internships through the SCARF database to supplement surveys of recent graduates conducted annually by OUS for the performance indicator process. Internship data will be reported as unduplicated headcount enrollment by academic year beginning the summer term (for example, beginning summer 2002 through spring 2003).

LINK TO PERFORMANCE INDICATOR PROCESS

The interest is in providing students with opportunities for internships that meet high standards of quality and help facilitate students with the translation of theory into practice. The ad hoc group and Academic Council concurred that programs should structure internships to incorporate these five criteria. These groups also acknowledged that other experiential and cooperative experiences were also valuable. It was agreed that, at least in the transition, both types of courses (or experiences) would be aggregated for reporting purposes. In the future, Academic Council may review this decision to aggregate the codes depending on new initiatives or funding, including performance funding, to support expansion of OUS-approved internship opportunities.