The Human Services Internship Program connects undergraduate Human Services majors with “hands-on” opportunities to deepen their knowledge of human development and implement helping skills to address the social service needs of individuals and families.

About the Internship
The internship fulfills the capstone requirement for the Human Services degree and is offered at the following levels:

- Full-time internship, 40 hours per week for 16 weeks (fall or spring term)
- Half-time internship, 20 hours per week for 16 weeks (fall or spring term)
- Half-time internship, 40 hours per week for 8 weeks (summer term)

The sites at which students complete their internships represent the range of human service settings and activities. For example, internship placement sites may:

- Be non-profit, private, or government agencies (community centers, autism centers, elder care centers, correctional facilities, day camps, etc.)
- Perform indirect services (fundraising, grant-writing, program development) or provide direct services to clients (program implementation, case management, outreach/education, family support services)
- Focus on human service needs (behavioral health, positive youth development, disabilities, poverty, criminal offenses, health and wellness, etc.) across the life span (from birth to old age)
- Serve individuals, groups, families, practitioners, or human service programs
“United Way has benefitted from six Human Services interns since 2011. Our interns have been conscientious, professional and effective. As a result, we have hired interns upon graduation and, just recently, promoted one after a year of employment.”

James Taylor, CEO
United Way of Greater Lafayette

Site Qualifications and Expectations
To qualify as an internship placement site, a site should offer half-time or full-time internships (paid or unpaid) and possess these characteristics:

- Interest in supporting the professional development of Human Services students
- Be a reputable program/agency engaged in some type of human service work
- Provide interns with professional experiences typical of entry level, bachelor-degreed staff
- Dedicate at least one hour a week for supervision with the intern
- Deliver regular performance feedback to the intern
- Be willing to work collaboratively with our program

Benefits of Hosting an Intern
The Human Services Internship Program has a reputation for developing students who are well-prepared for assuming professional roles and responsibilities. We are certain your site/staff could derive professional and personal benefit from the following:

- The addition of a well-trained, highly motivated person to your staff
- Having capable hands available for special projects
- Access to fresh ideas and perspectives
- Development of a talent pool for future employment
- Opportunities for staff to strengthen management and supervisory skills
- Mentorship of the next generation of human service professionals

Where to Go for More Information
To learn more about the internship program and to apply to be a site partner, contact the internship coordinators:

Jennifer Dobbs-Oates (jendo@purdue.edu; 765-494-2931)
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