

# **Human Services Internship Program**

## **Department of Human Development and Family Studies**

**The HDFS Internship Program connects undergraduate students with applied HDFS-related field experiences that can promote their knowledge of developmental processes and contexts, skills in social services, and professional behavior.**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW SITE PARTNERS!**

### **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, for-profit, or government agencies (e.g., community centers, autism centers, elder care centers, correctional facilities, day camps, etc.)
- Perform indirect services (e.g., fundraising, grant-writing, program development) or provide direct services to clients (e.g., program implementation, case management, outreach/education, family support services)
- Focus on human needs (e.g., poverty, disability, 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 HDFS 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 HDFS 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](mailto:jendo@purdue.edu); 765-494-2931)  
**Natasha Watkins** ([watkinsn@purdue.edu](mailto:watkinsn@purdue.edu); 765-496-2106)

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