

COMM 495

COMMUNICATION INTERNSHIP



COURSE OVERVIEW

COMM 495 is an online class completed synchronously with a supervised internship in which students synthesize, analyze, and link communication theory and principles to professional practice. Emphasis is placed on building a strong professional portfolio, improving interviewing and networking skills, and developing a deeper understanding of the individual strengths, challenges, and opportunities associated with the chosen field. Students must complete requirements for online coursework and supervised hours onsite to receive academic credit.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Internships provide students invaluable opportunities to learn professional skills central to their career development. Completing an internship for COMM 495 credit offers the additional benefit of helping students make connections between material learned in the major to work completed on site. This online course focuses on the integration and synthesis of knowledge from both the classroom and professional environments to enhance the educational experience. While each student creates a personalized learning contract to guide the onsite experience, at the conclusion of the course all students will be able to:

- **Critically analyze and apply communication theories in the context of the internship experience and chosen career field.**
- **Explain the value of the internship to career goals and overall educational experience.**
- **Interact effectively in a professional setting.**
- **Demonstrate communication competence through professional portfolio.**



COURSE EXPECTATIONS

GRADING

WEEKLY
DISCUSSION
350

FIELD ANALYSIS
100

SUPERVISOR
CHECK IN
100

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
PLAN
100

LEARNING
CONTRACT &
FINAL REPORT
150

ONSITE
SUPERVISOR
EVALUATION
200

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

This class takes place in Google Classroom and students are expected to "check in" with the classroom at least twice a week to participate in discussions and view content and written assignments.

ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly Discussions: Students will participate weekly in online discussions with fellow COFC COMM interns about their experiences and the application of course content to their work.

Field Analysis: Students will prepare a background report/presentation on their internship organization and the field/industry in which this organization is located. Data from this analysis will help students contextualize their work in the US/Global landscape and will be used in the final report.

Supervisor Mid Point Check In: Students will meet with their onsite supervisors for a midpoint check on their work. Students will provide an analysis of their progress to date in meeting Learning Contract goals, challenges at the internship site, and key learnings to date.

Professional Development Plan: Students will work with the professor to create an individualized professional development plan which includes identifying strengths and weaknesses, setting goals, creating a professional presence online, and generating a strategy to achieve career goals.

Final Report: Students will prepare a learning contract at the start of the internship outlining goals and learning objectives. At the end of the semester, students will submit a final report evaluating progress towards goals. Emphasis is placed on reflection, observations, linkages to communication theory, field analysis and the inclusion of work samples.

Onsite Supervisor Evaluation: Students will be evaluated by site supervisor via online survey administered by instructor. It is the student's responsibility to confirm survey has been received and returned to the instructor. Student's whose evaluations are NOT returned will receive no more than half of the available points in this category.

POLICIES



PROFESSIONAL PRESENCE

As young professionals, I expect students in this class to communicate both ethically and professionally in the online environment. I expect you to engage in communication that is sensitive to cultural values and beliefs, communication that is truthful and accurate and communication that fosters mutual understanding and respect. Most, if not all, of your interaction with one another (and me) will be virtual in the google classroom and on google hangouts. I expect you will post and engage responsibly and professionally. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the weekly participation grade and possible removal from the class.

TECHNOLOGY

This course will use:

Google Classroom

Google Apps

Google Hangouts

FlipGrid



EARLY TERMINATION

It is important to complete the required number of hours for your internship prior to the end of the assigned term. If you have any concerns about your ability to do so or are terminated by your internship supervisor, you should contact the instructor immediately. There are times, despite best efforts, when it is best for student and organization to part ways. These circumstances are rare and should be approved by the faculty member in advance of the exit whenever possible. Failure to complete the internship may result in failure of the course. Each case will be handled individually and with respect to the circumstances surrounding the student's exit from the internship site.

HONOR CODE & SNAP

This course follows all policies related to lying, cheating, and plagiarism as outlined by the CofC Student Handbook.

I am happy to modify assignments for students with SNAP accommodations. Please notify me via email in the first week of class so we can plan accordingly.

Course requires Junior or senior standing and 2.500 GPA in communication major or minor

PROFILE



BETHANY C. GOODIER, PH.D.

Office: 9 College, Room 207

Email: goodierb@cofc.edu (best method)

Office Hours: by appointment in the Summer

Phone: (843) 953-7420

CONSULTATIONS

Please use your COFC email to correspond with me directly or post questions relevant to the group in our class "STREAM." I will respond to all emails within 36 hours. You are also welcome to schedule a "hangout" or face to face meeting at your convenience.

MY PHILOSOPHY

There is an old saying "Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life." I love my job and am privileged to have the opportunity to work with students as they "test out" various career paths, develop professional skills and build a portfolio that will help them find a job they love too. Please don't hesitate to let me know how I can help you on your path to success.

