ENVHLTH 493: INTERNSHIP (4 Credits)

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health Environmental and Occupational Health Emphasis area degree program at BSU requires that a student perform a 4-credit internship. It is the responsibility of the student to find an internship, but a student’s academic advisor can provide help in ensuring it is a suitable match for the program.

An Internship Experience Offers Students:
- Practical, hands-on work experience
- The opportunity to see first-hand whether a particular field is a good match
- The chance to practice what you have learned in the classroom
- First-hand knowledge of an organization
- The ability to earn academic credit
- The potential to earn money while also taking classes
- The opportunity to network and make valuable connections for future jobs
- Experience in resume writing and interviewing

Some internship positions provide pay for students; others do not. The most important part of an internship is in the experience gained and the contacts made. Interns have opportunities to make contributions to organizations and illustrate how valuable they could be as full-time employees after graduation. Conversely, the organization has an opportunity to assess the student’s potential as a full-time employee. Often, the intern and the organization agree to continue the employment relationship after the internship is complete. If this opportunity is not available, organizations will often recommend interns for other opportunities in their field.

Internships require 45 hours of work for each hour of academic credit awarded. Thus, for successful completion of the 4-credit internship requirement for Environmental and Occupational Health majors, 180 hours of work must be completed. Internships will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Generally, students work from 10 to 12 hours per week during a semester. However, time frames are flexible. Internships do not always coincide with the semester calendar. Interns sometimes work full-time during vacations and during the summer. The internship program is quite flexible and specific requirements will vary based on the type of job the student intern is performing.

At the completion of the 180-hour internship the student is required to write a paper reflecting on their experiences. The guidelines for this paper can be found in a separate document that is linked to the program website.