

**James Madison University**  
**Nonprofit Internship Overview**  
**NPS 400**

This is a supervised internship/practicum experience in a nonprofit organization setting that provides experiential learning and practice experiences. A research or applied project, learning journals and presentation based on the experience are required.

**160 hours** are required for **4 credits**; **240 hours** are required for **6 credits**.

Pre-requisites: NPS 300 and discipline-specific elective

**The Learning Journal**

The purpose of the Learning Journal is to assist you in integrating materials and learning from our internship experience, previous courses, work/community service experiences and Nonprofit Studies classes. The journal documents your internship experiences and serves to demonstrate your growing skills. It is a key component of the instructor's evaluation of your internship experience.

**The Community Agency Paper**

This assignment combines an analysis of your internship setting and the organization's mission along with the target community it serves. Target community may be defined from a service and/or geographic perspective. The goal of this assignment is to develop a deepened understanding of each and how the two interrelate. In completing this activity you will be applying and integrating various models of organizational behavior and nonprofit skills in the broadest sense. Please note that this assignment is designed to cover a variety of settings; you may need to modify language as appropriate.

**The Board of Directors/Committee Paper**

Different students will have different access to board officers and members. It is YOUR job to let me know in the context of this assignment who you contacted and how you gathered information. It is hoped that you will be able to attend a board meeting or committee meeting where you can gather this information and gain insights into how the board operates and impacts the work of your organization.

**The Applied/Research Project**

This paper (40% of your overall grade) is an assignment that requires dialogue with your internship site supervisor or assigned contact person at the agency. A research topic or applied project must be decided with your agency and is required to address an agency need. This project should address the agency directly while drawing on the NPS curriculum (i.e. academic materials, theoretical perspectives, and managerial aspects with scholarly citations). Agency documents or materials should be utilized as well. Your internship site supervisor as well as your NPS faculty instructor will review and comment on your project. The NPS instructor will award the final grade.

If you have further questions, please contact the advisor of the Nonprofit Studies minor.