

## INTERNSHIPS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Wabash College Schroeder Center for Career Development

**What is an internship?** An internship is a meaningful work experience and project provides the student practical application and skills in a professional setting. (See NACE's position statement and the Department of Labor's 6 criteria [here](#))

**Why should I intern?** Internships build your skills, experiences, and professional narratives. Internships give students the opportunity to gain valuable applied experience and make connections in professional fields they are considering for career paths; and give employers the opportunity to guide and evaluate talent.

**Are Internships Paid?** Some are paid, some are not. Pay depends on the industry, organization, and popularity. Some unpaid internships do offer other financial benefits. These might include parking, housing/housing assistance, travel expenses, meals, mileage, etc. Others may offer college credit. If you are interested in an internship opportunity that provides/requires college credit, see us.

**Do I Ever Have To Pay For An Internship Experience?** Some internship programs are actually structured learn/work programs that set up experiences for you for a fee. This is fairly common with international internships.

**How Long Is An internship?** All Wabash-funded Programs (Lilly, SBIF, Dill) require at least 8 weeks of work. Most summer programs average 10 weeks.

**How Do I Choose The Internship That's Right For Me?** If you are in the career decision-making process, choose an internship that affords you a well-rounded picture of that career field. If you have firmly decided on your career path, choose an internship that provides experience. If you have identified an employer you'd like to work for, apply for an internship with the organization. Many employers use internships to groom potential full-time hires.

**Can I Intern As A Freshman?** Yes. We encourage you to find an internship after your freshmen year. For best results, start updating your resume and LinkedIn profile as soon as you begin your studies at Wabash.

**How Many Internships Should I Complete?** As many as you like, but at least one that provides you meaningful work experience.

**When Should I Begin Applying For Internships?** Nationally competitive internship programs frequently have fall deadlines. For local internship programs or those with smaller organizations, it's best to apply in the early spring semester. Application deadlines for all Wabash-funded internship experiences are in early spring. If you wait too long to start preparing and searching, you will miss out on a wealth of excellent opportunities.