Internships are an excellent opportunity to see psychology in action in mental health, educational and research settings. Participation in the internship program is required for all psychology majors. All students must have 4 credits towards an internship, which is 160 hours at an internship site.

For the internship, we expect you to work in a psychology related field under the supervision of a person with at least a master’s degree in psychology or a related discipline. Regular contact with your Westminster College internship instructor is required. A reading list developed prior to actual internship activities, a journal and a paper integrating the readings, internship experience and other college course work are required.

Internship Outcomes

By the end of the internship students will be able to:

1. Communicate effectively using appropriate psychological style in written reports of research and psychology applications. (PSY 5)
2. Link core scientific principles to areas of application. (PSY 6)
3. Use both convergent and divergent thinking in solving quantitative and applied problem solving tasks. (PSY 7)
4. Practice the ethics of psychology in professional and interpersonal settings. (PSY 8)
5. Establish creative linkages between psychology and other knowledge domains. (PSY 11)
6. Recognize competencies, seek opportunities for self-improvement, and actively engage in making strategic choices regarding academic and career goals. (PSY 12)

For a research internship, students will also be able to:

1. Develop skills to find, evaluate and use psychological knowledge. (PSY 2)
2. Reason scientifically, applying appropriate research design and quantitative methods. (PSY 3)
3. Use technology appropriately and responsibly. (PSY 4)

These outcomes align with the psychology curricular outcomes, which can be found at http://www.westminster.edu/acad/psych/psych_mission_outcomes.cfm.

The Internship Experience

If appropriately planned, your internship experience should be both educational and worthy of college credit. Regard your internship as an apprenticeship. You should not be doing work which is primarily clerical. To guarantee things are going as they should, it is required that you contact by phone (or e-mail) your faculty instructor after the first week of your internship. Through your discussion, it can be determined if your activities are appropriate or some changes need to be made. If the internship appears unsatisfactory in any way let your Westminster instructor know. It may be more appropriate for us to attempt to rectify things for you.
On-site supervisors will vary quite a bit in how much time they are willing or able to spend with you directly. Sometimes they are concerned that they need to prepare special activities for you. You can assure them that they need not, although, many will voluntarily take special interest in you. However, it is your responsibility to arrange at least a small amount of time with the supervisor to ask questions relevant to his/her professional training and responsibilities.

Since the experience is an apprenticeship, it is essential that you understand "the psychology" of what you are doing. For example, in some cases you will be working on a day-in day-out basis with teaching staff or perhaps a lab technician. This is O.K., but such people may not be knowledgeable enough to teach you why they do what they do. It is your responsibility to seek out professional staff who can explain this to you. Such an understanding is an essential component of your internship.

As a way to help you understand what you are doing:

- You should be consulting material on your reading list. Attempting to integrate academic material with the practical experiences of the job can be a source of questions which you can bring to your on-site supervisor and other staff.
- In addition, you should request suggestions as to what else you might read.
- Many sites may have libraries which would permit access to materials that would otherwise be difficult to obtain.

Grading

Regular or S/U grading is available for internships. Regardless of grading type, the same course requirements apply. They are:

- **Journal**: A daily record should be kept of your on-site activities. It should include a description of how information from your college courses relates to your internship activities.
- **On-Site Evaluation**: Your on-site supervisor is responsible for writing a brief evaluation of your performance. The evaluations are sent to Mrs. DeMedal who will send a copy to the faculty advisor and the student.
- **Paper**: A paper which integrates your practical experiences with academic psychology is required. It most likely requires relating your activities to materials on your reading list (as amended during the semester). Its exact content, length, date due etc., will be assigned by the faculty instructor. Generally it is completed after you return to campus at the beginning of the following semester.

Internship Survey

The Psychology Department monitors the quality of student internships. At the end of your internship experience, we will ask you to fill out a survey, which can be found at [http://www.psych.westminster.edu/phpESP/public/survey.php?name=Internship_Survey_Final](http://www.psych.westminster.edu/phpESP/public/survey.php?name=Internship_Survey_Final)