

HDFS 450: Practicum in HDFS Course Information

<http://publish.illinois.edu/hdfs-internship>

HDFS 450 is a two-part supervised learning experience that:

- 1) places students in community agencies or institutions where they can work with children, adolescents, adults, or families, and
- 2) meets in a weekly class that addresses professional development issues.

Students can choose from a catalog of placement sites that have agreed to host HDFS interns or find their own potential site (which will need to be approved by the course instructor).

HDFS 450 is designed to provide:

- Professional-level experience in an agency or organization that corresponds with a student's career interest;
- An opportunity for students to apply the theory, content, and skills they have learned in their coursework to "real world" situations;
- An opportunity for students to develop new knowledge, attitudes, and skills; and
- A system of support that facilitates successful and satisfying internship experiences and prepares students for the world of work or further education.

Prerequisites & Requirements

- Students must be HDFS majors in good standing who are at the junior or senior level.
- Preference will be given to students who have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.
- Students must have completed at least HDFS 105 and 120. *Some practicum placements may require specific course work or practical experience (e.g., HDFS 220, 310, 425).*
- HDFS 450 is not available to students on probation.
- Students must complete the application process and be approved before contacting a site for a potential internship.

Credit Hours

This course offers flexible registration of 4-6 credit hours. The amount of credit to be received is negotiated with the student, the student's advisor, and the course instructor. Sites must also agree to provide the required number of hours in the placement for the agreed upon credit hours.

Students work at their placement site between 10 and 20 hours per week. In addition, there is a mandatory weekly seminar (1.75 hours/week) where students will be responsible for completing readings and assignments, as well as a semester project and presentation.

The minimum number of work hours per week at a placement site is 10 hours (for 4 credits), and the maximum number of work hours is 20 hours (for 6 credits).

4 credits: 10-12 hours/week for 15 weeks = 150 hours total required

5 credits: 13-15 hours/week for 15 weeks = 195 hours total required

6 credits: 16-20 hours/week for 15 weeks = 240 hours total required

At the undergraduate level, **up to 6 hours** of HDFS 450 credit may be applied to the total of HDFS course credits required for graduation.

Only 4 credit hours of HDFS 450 may be applied to the total required for a graduate degree.

Course Requirements and Grading

- 1) Students will fulfill the obligations specified in the Learning Contract, which includes working at the placement site for the designated number of hours determined by the number of credits registered. Students will also be required to complete a site project that will be developed by the student and site supervisor and approved by the course instructor.
- 2) Students must participate in weekly seminars where they will be expected to complete readings, write brief reflections, give a class presentation on their placement and site project. Details will be listed in the course syllabus and discussed in class.
- 3) Students will be assigned a grade by the course instructor who takes into consideration the site supervisor's evaluation comments and recommendation for grade, seminar participation, and completion of assignments. The course syllabus will describe the specific course requirements and grading policies.

Timeline

Please consult the course website for the timeline and deadlines for applications, as they vary from year to year. All site placements must be secured by April in order to register for the course in the fall semester and begin your work at the site in August.

For more information, visit the website at <http://publish.illinois.edu/hdfs-internship> or email course instructor, Dr. Elissa Thomann Mitchell (thomann2@illinois.edu).