

WRIT 3000: Professional Writing Practicum

This course allows you to earn credit for a writing-related internship experience.

How Do I Arrange to Take WRIT 3000?

First, you must find an internship. You can contact Career Services for assistance; they can share internship announcements with you as well as help you with your resume and application letters. You can also contact organizations directly to find out if they offer internships. Keep in mind that the internship must include a substantial amount of writing/editing to qualify you to earn credit through WRIT 3000.

To register for the class, please contact Karla Armbruster or the English Department Chair. A special section of WRIT 3000 will be created that is tailored to your internship. It will have a subtitle that reflects the nature of your internship (such as “Writing for Alternative Newspapers” or “Writing for Nonprofit Organizations”). The number of credit hours for your section will correlate with the number of hours you plan to work during your internship (1 credit hour = 60 hours of work). You will also need to fill out an internship form with some basic information about your internship situation.

Please DO NOT just register for a section of WRIT 3000 that you find already listed in the course catalogue (on-line or paper).

What Do I Have to Do to Earn Credit?

As soon as you begin your internship, you should meet with your supervisor to put together your learning objectives for the internship experience. (See sample learning objectives.)

During the course of your internship, keep a journal reflecting on your experiences. Try to write in your journal at least once during every week of a 16 week, 3-credit internship; adjust for shorter internships and those for fewer credits. Please turn your journal in to the faculty member overseeing WRIT 3000 after the second week of your internship, halfway through the internship, and at the end.

In your journal entries, you may want to record what you actually do as part of the internship, but that should only be a starting point. Use your writing to think about

- What surprises the job holds for you and how you are meeting any challenges.
- How the job draws on skills and information you have learned in your classes.
- What you are learning – new skills, the culture of your organization, things about yourself that affect your job performance, etc.
- What successes and other positive experiences you are having and why.

At the end of the internship, write a 4-5 page paper analyzing your experience and discussing what you have learned and why/how you think it has value. Turn this paper in to the faculty member overseeing WRIT 3000 along with your completed journal and a portfolio of writing samples you have created as part of your internship.