INSTRUCTOR: Any faculty member in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology & Management.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Supervised internship with an approved natural resource business, government agency, or nongovernment organization, including a diversity of learning opportunities in a work environment. 1-6 credits, max 6. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. For every hour of credit, 45 hours of work are required. Graded on a pass-fail basis.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The internship experience is structured to provide students with opportunities for learning experiences aimed at accomplishing some, if not all of the following:

- Gain a practical, applied, real-world, learning experience in natural resource ecology and management in a professional, work-place environment;
- Achieve a broad-based understanding of natural resource ecology and management from the perspective of a natural resource business, government agency, or nongovernment organization;
- Enhance learning by integrating knowledge and skills attained in several campus courses in a work-place learning environment;
- Engage in meaningful interaction with natural resource business, government agency, and/or nongovernment organization personnel, while experiencing and learning more about administrative, policy, fiscal and managerial elements of natural resource management;
- Further develop and enhance technical and field skills in natural resource ecology and management;
- Expand and enhance skills related to critical thinking, problem solving, setting a work schedule, and time management;
- Further develop skills and proficiency in report writing and oral communication beyond what was learned and experienced in previous coursework;
- Foster the development of a professional work ethic and professional networking.

COURSE PROTOCOL & PROCEDURES: The following guidelines serve to provide structure and continuity for the student engaged in the internship experience, along with their faculty mentor and work-place supervisor:

1. The student should identify an opportunity suitable for an internship by conferring with the NREM faculty mentor and a professional contact with a natural resource business, government agency, or nongovernment organization, who ultimately will serve as the work-place supervisor.

2. An internship may focus on any area of natural resource ecology and management.
3. The course is available for 1-6 credit-hours in a semester, with a maximum of 6 credit-hours on a student's study-plan.

4. 45 hours of work (in the workplace) is required for every hour of credit.

5. The work experience associated with the internship should be multi-faceted, comprised of a diversity of opportunities in a professionally-mentored, learning environment. It is the responsibility of the faculty mentor, the workplace supervisor, and the student to confer in advance and agree upon the mix and breadth of opportunities for the student in the internship. Subsequently, an "Internship Agreement" shall be articulated in writing and signed in advance by the student, faculty mentor, and workplace supervisor.

6. During the internship experience and depending upon the number of hours of credit the student is enrolled, the student will select 1 or more topics that they want to learn more about throughout their internship. Students will communicate their progress regularly with their faculty mentor and will produce a summary document for each topic. This summary should provide an overview of what skills they gained, self-evaluation and assessment of their learning, new insights, and the personal and professional development associated with the experience.

7. After completing the internship, the student will prepare and deliver either a powerpoint presentation to their student organization, NREM faculty &/or interested students following the format of a formal seminar or a poster presentation to an appropriate group (e.g. professional meeting). In addition, students will be asked to produce a brief description of their experiences for publishing in the NREM Department Newsletter.

8. The faculty mentor will serve as the instructor of record for grading the summary paper and presentation for determining the final grade for the student, utilizing input from the workplace supervisor.

9. Depending upon the nature of the internship and the affiliated business, agency, or organization, internships may be either volunteer experiences or work experiences with wage compensation.

**EVALUATION & GRADING:**

Students will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Scholarly quality, creativity, thoroughness, attention to detail, and effectiveness of all endeavors associated with the internship.
- Adherence to deadlines as contracted between the student, faculty mentor and workplace supervisor.
- Effective communication of results of the internship in writing and in oral presentation.

No examinations will be given in this course.

The course is graded on a pass-fail basis.

Pass = Student work is acceptable (or better) and meets the general expectations of the faculty.

Fail = Student work is unacceptable and below the general expectations of the faculty.