

ECO393: Internship in Applied Economics

Summer [online, 10 weeks]

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Please type ECO393 in the subject line when communicating with me via email about the class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An internship offers more than a line on your resume.

- ✓ An internship provides the opportunity to immerse yourself in a particular work environment [organization/industry] to test its “fit” for your future career path.
- ✓ An internship allows you to build professional skills that complement your academic studies.
- ✓ An internship provides opportunities for you to meet professionals in fields that interest you.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

- ✓ Students must be a declared (or intended) economics major or minor
- ✓ Student must have successfully completed [minimum grade of C-] ECO105 and ECO106
- ✓ Students must have their internship approved prior to registration in ECO393 [see details below]
- ✓ Internships require a minimum of 10 hours per week over the 10 week term
- ✓ Students must have access to the Internet to complete and submit the course assignments through the D2L class site

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to help you make connections between your study of economics [as a major or minor] and your internship experience. By the end of the course you should be able to:

- ✓ identify characteristics of the work environment of your internship that are a good fit for your future professional interests
- ✓ use economic models to analyze the work place environment
- ✓ develop a workplace improvement plan for your organization drawing on your study of economics
- ✓ build your network with professionals in the field

The course is being offered in an online format so that you may take advantage of internship opportunities in Chicago and beyond without encountering scheduling conflicts. Assignments will be submitted through D2L drop box or discussion boards will be utilized to interact with other students in the class

COURSE STRUCTURE AND GRADING: Students will be evaluated on the assignments below and a final project. These assignments include written work submitted through the D2L dropbox and participation in online discussion boards through D2L. **All assignment details, including submission guidelines and point values, are detailed in the course outline. Please read these carefully to insure proper and timely submission of assignments.** A total of 100 points are possible and final grades will be assigned according to the following grading scheme:

A [92-100]	B [82-87]	C [72-77]	D [62-67]
A- [90-91]	B- [80-81]	C- [70-71]	D- [60-61]
B+ [88-89]	C+ [78-79]	D+ [68-69]	F [below 60]

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

All assignment details, including due dates and submission guidelines, are noted in the following course outline. **Assignments are due by 11:59pm Central Time on the due date.** Please read the assignment details carefully to insure proper and timely submission of assignments. Late submissions of work will be penalized 1 point per day beyond the due date.

[The D2L site will include all assignment deadlines in the calendar as a reminder to students.]

Assignment 1: Introduction

Post Due: April 8th

Introduce yourself to the class through a discussion post that identifies:

- Your major/minor and year at DePaul
- Your internship organization [firm, government agency, non-profit], your position title, and a brief description of your duties

Post your introduction by selecting Assignment #1 under D2L Discussions. Start a new thread **using your name** as the subject and providing your introduction in the box.

Assignment 2: Supervisor/Co-worker Interview [10 points]

Submission through D2L Dropbox

Due: April 15th

Conduct an interview of your supervisor [or another full time person within your organization if your supervisor is not available]. Possible questions include:

1. How long have you been with the organization and in what capacity?
2. What is your educational background and work experience prior to joining the organization?
3. What is the most satisfying aspect of your job?
4. What on piece of advice would you offer to people starting out in your field?

Feel free to modify these questions to fit your particular work environment. Include the name of your supervisor, his/her position and organization in your write up [1-2 pages typed]. After describing the responses to your questions, write a reflection [based on the responses] on what skills are necessary and what it is like to work in your organization. As a courtesy, you might offer to share your questions with your supervisor in advance of the interview.

Assignment 3: Progress Reflection "A Day in the Life of an Intern" [10 points]

Submission through D2L Dropbox

Post Due: April 22nd

Write a one page description of what you do as an intern for your company/organization. Please include:

- Who you work for
- Your title
- A description of your company [size, industry, etc.]
- Day-to-day activities
- Knowledge or skills you hope to enhance through your internship experience.

Post your reflection by selecting Assignment #3 under D2L submissions.

Assignment 4: Networking Assignment [10 points]

Submission through D2L Dropbox

Due: May 27th

Networking involves making and maintaining contacts with people in your chosen profession. You must identify individuals you meet and learn from in your internship. These individuals could work at the organization where you are interning or they could be people from other organizations with whom you interact.

Please create a networking record with following information:

- Name, title, company, phone and/or e-mail

- Write a note on what you learned from your interactions with each person.

You will submit your networking document at the end of the term.

Assignment 5: Identifying Economics at Work [10 points]

Submission through D2L Dropbox

Post Due: April 29th

This assignment asks you to select one economic concept/model and evaluate whether it accurately describes the functioning of your organization. Write a 1-2 page essay analyzing how this economic concept or the assumptions of a particular economic model are reflected [or not reflected] in the workplace of your internship.

Assignment 6: Business Ethics Case [10 points]

Submission through D2L Dropbox

Due: May 6th

Read Chapter 1: "The Gap between Intended and Actual Ethical Behavior" in Max H. Bazerman & Ann E. Tenbrunsel, *Blind Spots: Why We Fail to Do What's Right and What to Do about It*, Princeton University Press, 2012. [[available on D2L under CONTENT Assignment 6](#)]

- Select one [or more] of the ideas outlined by Bazerman and Tenbrunsel to discuss an ethical dilemma that you think could arise within your organization or could affect policy impacting your organization. [Note: I am not asking you to detail an actual situation, but a hypothetical one.]
- Write a 2-3 page [typed, double-spaced] essay relating the authors ideas to your specific organizational environment.

If you have trouble getting started with this assignment, focus on the ideas from the article that seem most relevant to your workplace/industry. Think of specific examples of each idea that relate to your environment, then imagine a potential ethical dilemma that could develop.

Assignment 7: Career Development Assignment [10 points]

Submission through D2L Dropbox

Due: May 13th

- Find at least one internship or job [on Handshake, the Career Center's database, or another job posting] that you are now better qualified for on the basis of your internship experience.
- Write a brief explanation of how your experiences within your internship developed the skills you need to compete for this other internship/job?
- Submit a revised resume which includes an entry on your internship highlighting the skills you gained.

Due: May 27th

Final submission of Networking Assignment See details above under Assignment #4

Note: If any of your contacts took considerable time with you, please consider following up with them at the end of the internship to thank them. You might include a thought from your network log about what you learned from the interaction.

Final Project: Using Economics in the Workplace [20 points]

Submission through D2L Dropbox

Due: June 3rd

Develop a plan using economic principles for improving some aspect of the organization at which you have interned. This plan could focus on a cost/benefit analysis of a business plan, a strategy to provide incentives to employees to enhance productivity, etc. The purpose of the assignment is to APPLY what you are learning in economics classes to your specific internship experience. You could take the "Identifying Economics at Work" idea from Assignment 5 and use it to develop a specific improvement for your organization. Be creative!

This final product should be 3-5 pages in length [typed, double-spaced] and should include the following:

- Identification of an aspect of the organization that needs improvement
- Explanation of which economic principles are relevant
- Details of a plan that applies the economic principles to the identified problem