

JOURNALISM & MEDIA  
COMMUNICATION

# Student Internship Packet

## Includes:

- How to get an internship
- Internship policy
- Assignments
- Student and supervisor forms

Kim Spencer,  
Internship Coordinator  
C226Clark  
Phone: 970-491-0612  
Fax: 970-491-2908  
Email:  
[kimberly.spencer@colostate.edu](mailto:kimberly.spencer@colostate.edu)

# How to get a journalism internship

**Do you meet the prerequisites?** All journalism interns are recommended to have completed the following courses in one area to qualify for a credit internship:

News-Editorial:	JTC100, JTC210, and JTC320
Public Relations:	JTC100, JTC210, JTC350, and JTC351
TV/Video:	JTC100, JTC210, and JTC340 <b>or</b> JTC341
Specialized/Tech:	JTC100, JTC210, JTC310, JTC361, and JTC461 <b>or</b> JTC464
CMC:	JTC100, JTC210, JTC365 and <b>one</b> of following (JTC326, JTC335, JTC372, JTC373 or JTC460)

**Select internships that interest you and apply for them** much like you would apply for any job. If you find an internship on your own, you must obtain Kim Spencer's approval before you can earn credit. It is a good idea to meet with her before you send out your resume and cover letter.

**Review available internships** online at <http://interns.libarts.colostate.edu/category/jtc/>

**If you need a letter confirming that you will receive academic credit**, please contact Kim Spencer.

**Fill out the "Student JTC487 and JTC687 Internship Form."** The form is available in this packet or online at the journalism department website.

**If offered an internship**, ask the intern sponsor (supervisor) to complete and sign the "**Student-Supervisor Agreement for CSU Interns**," form that is available in this packet or online at the journalism department website.

**Submit TWO completed forms ("Student JTC487 and JTC687 Internship Form" AND the "Student/Supervisor Agreement for CSU Interns" form), to Kim Spencer.** Once Kim approves the forms, she will send you an email with instructions to register for the course. Students must register for an internship at least 10 weeks prior to the end of the semester in which they are doing the internship.

**During your internship you will be required to:**

1. Maintain a weekly journal
2. Write a background report on the organization
3. Write a final report on the internship and provide samples of your best work

**Notes:**

- *You can earn 1 credit for 50 hours; 2 credits for 100 hours; 3 credits for 150 hours.*
- *CSU students may earn only four total internship credits. Only seven credits combined of JTC484, JTC487, JTC495 and JTC496 will be allowed in degree fulfillment with no more than three credits applied toward fulfillment of JTC elective credit.*

## **Internship Policy Statement**

The Colorado State University Department of Journalism and Media Communication encourages all students to take advantage of internship opportunities. Internships benefit both the students and the internship sponsors. Students benefit from the opportunity to apply what they have learned in college courses to a work situation, under a trained supervisor in a professional setting. The internship sponsors benefit by establishing a relationship with the school and faculty, by being introduced to potential employees and by the actual work the interns accomplish.

Internships are required for graduation, and they provide the final preparation for entering the profession. (See "How to Get an Internship" for details.)

### **Interns can expect to:**

- Receive help from the internship coordinator in locating internships that match their career goals and provide meaningful, responsible work experiences.
- Be supervised, given feedback and suggestions for improvement.
- Be supported by the internship coordinator in dealing with work-related issues.
- Receive academic credit for successful completion. A passing grade comes from the combination of the supervisor's evaluation; an evaluation of the student's work samples; the intern's journals; required reports, and the department's assessment of the rigor of the particular internship.

### **Interns are expected to:**

- Treat the internship as a professional job and to act accordingly. Students will be placed only in offices where their work will be supervised by a professional in their particular area of communication.

### **Supervisors are expected to:**

- Provide the department with a written job description and conditions of the internship. (Supervisors may be requested to provide a resume of their professional work.)
- Sign a contract indicating willingness to supervise and evaluate the intern.
- Provide supervision, feedback and a written evaluation.

We encourage pay for interns to help defray their education costs.

Kim Spencer  
Internship Coordinator  
Department of Journalism & Media Communication

# JTC487 AND JTC687 INTERNSHIPS ASSIGNMENTS

(Due dates will be available on Canvas once you are enrolled)

## ASSIGNMENT NO. 1: BACKGROUND REPORT

A brief, typed report that includes: *(Be sure to answer all five points; please write one to three pages)*

1. A brief history, explaining ownership, funding, and the impact of this organization on the community.
2. A description of the staff, departments and your supervisor's responsibilities.
3. A description of your responsibilities. Tell me when you began and what hours you are working.
4. Describe the audience your organization addresses.
5. Describe the management style of your organization.

*Purpose: to help you understand the organization and to see how your work is a part of the communication process in the community.*

## ASSIGNMENT NO. 2: JOURNAL REPORTS

**You must turn in a journal report. Your supervisor must sign the report.** Journals include hours worked and specific work you have been assigned to do.

*Purpose: This is to help you see how your internship is progressing and to help keep track of your hours and your specific responsibilities at your internship.*

## ASSIGNMENT NO. 3: FINAL REPORT

**Write an assessment of your internship, and include samples of your best work.** Include good points as well as areas where you think improvements can be made for future internships. Limit your final report to one to three pages. Submit a sample of your best work completed during this internship. Depending upon your internship work, this might be a brochure, business plan, Web page, clips, TV script, tape or any other completed work.

*Purpose: Your own assessment of your work is valuable to you. Your assessment of the internship helps us evaluate this internship opportunity for other students. Work samples will be useful for your portfolio when you begin job hunting.*

## ASSIGNMENT NO. 4: EVALUATION

Toward the end of your internship, your supervisor will be e-mailed an evaluation form that is to be returned to Kim Spencer before you can be given a grade. It is **your responsibility** to see that he/she returns the completed evaluation on time to CSU. Even if you work beyond **the end of the semester**, the final evaluation is still due on this date. **Missing evaluations result in an "Incomplete" for the course.**

## **YOUR GRADE:**

- *You will receive an S or U for this course. Your grade will be determined by your supervisor evaluations, coupled with the other required assignments. An S is equal to a 70 percent or better.*
- Journals must be signed by your supervisor. The Background and Final Reports should be typed.
- Your internship supervisor will be required to complete an evaluation.
  - Kim Spencer will email the evaluation link to your supervisor.
  - You are not responsible for your supervisor receiving the evaluation, but you are responsible for making sure that he/she returns the evaluation to Kim. **You will get an "Incomplete" in this course if your supervisor neglects to turn in the evaluation.**

## **SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

Assignments will be submitted through Canvas.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**If you have questions, call, email or visit me:**

Clark C226, 970-491-0612 or e-mail at [Kimberly.spencer@colostate.edu](mailto:Kimberly.spencer@colostate.edu)

# Student/Supervisor Agreement for CSU Interns

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that \_\_\_\_\_ will be  
(student's name)

working for \_\_\_\_\_  
(organization)

During the (circle one) Spring, Fall, Summer Semester, 20\_\_\_\_\_, to earn internship credit through the Colorado State University Department of Journalism and Media Communication.

This student has agreed to work \_\_\_\_\_ hours to earn \_\_\_\_\_ credits.  
(1 credit = 50 hours; 2 credits = 100 hours; 3 credits = 150 hours.)

I agree to supervise this student's work and to complete an evaluation to be sent to Internship Coordinator Kim Spencer.

Supervisor (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's E-mail (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Address (Street/P.O.) \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_  
(supervisor)

Please return to:

Kim Spencer, Internship Coordinator  
Department of Journalism and Media Communication  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1785  
Ph. 970-491-0612; FAX 970-491-2908;  
kimberly.spencer@Colostate.edu

# Student JTC487/JTC687 Internship Form

**Internship Policy Statement:** The Colorado State University Department of Journalism and Technical Communication encourages all students to take advantage of internship opportunities. Internships benefit both the students and the internship sponsors. Students benefit from the opportunity to apply what they have learned in college courses to a work situation, under a trained supervisor in a professional setting. The internship sponsors benefit by establishing a relationship with the school and faculty, by being introduced to potential employees and by the actual work the interns accomplish. Internships are not required for graduation, but they provide the final preparation for entering the profession. We encourage every student to take part. (See "How to Get an Internship" for details.) Interns can expect to receive help from the internship coordinator in locating internships that match their career goals and provide meaningful, responsible work experiences; be supervised, given feedback and suggestions for improvement; be supported by the internship coordinator in dealing with work related issues; receive a letter grade that reflects their work. Grades are the combination of the supervisor's evaluation; an evaluation of the student's work samples; the interns' journals; required reports, and the department's assessment of the rigor of the particular internship. Interns are expected to treat the internship as a professional job and to act accordingly. Students will be placed only in offices where their work will be supervised by a professional in their particular area of communication. National accreditation requirements do not allow academic credit for work on student media such as the *Collegian*, CTV or KCSU. Supervisors can expect to receive support from the department in pre-screening applicants so that only qualified students apply, and through phone contacts and visits during the internship. Supervisors are expected to provide the department with a written job description and conditions of the internship; sign a contract indicating willingness to supervise and evaluate the intern; provide supervision, feedback and a written evaluation. (Supervisors may be requested to provide a resume of their professional work.) We encourage pay for interns to help defray their education costs.

Anticipated time of internship:  Fall \_\_\_\_\_  Spring \_\_\_\_\_  Summer \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CSU ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

CSU Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street, apartment number, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_

City

State

Zip

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you earned any JTC487, JTC484, JTC495, or JTC496 credits? If so, how many and what were you doing? \_\_\_\_\_

List any previous internships (for credit or not for credit) \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** The Journalism and Technical Communication Department allows a maximum of four internship credits during your college career, and you may earn only a total of seven credits in any kind of independent study such as the courses listed above. You may not earn more than 40 credits in JTC courses; you must have at least 80 credits outside of the journalism department.

My JTC concentration is \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative CSU GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected date of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Status  Jr.  Sr.  Grad.

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*THIS SECTION ONLY FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE REQUESTED AN APPEAL:*

**For students:** If you do not have all of the prerequisites for the internship, you can appeal to register for it. The appeals process requires you to obtain a signed verification that your supervisor is willing to work with you as an intern even though you do not have all of the prerequisites, and that the skills you will use for the internship will not be taught in the prerequisite that you don't have. You will need your advisor's signature below to make an appeal. The appeals process takes about one week to complete, so please plan accordingly.

**For adviser:** Please review this form and indicate below if you know this student's work and believe he/she is prepared for an internship. If you cannot judge the student's preparedness, please advise the student to seek a signature from an instructor of his/her latest writing, public relations, broadcast, or cmc class taken.

I know this student's work and believe he/she is prepared for an internship \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of adviser or appropriate instructor

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**Submit this form to Journalism Department Internship Coordinator, Kim Spencer, C226 Clark.**