Internship in the Swine Industry

Instructor
Dr. Cindy Wood
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Blacksburg, VA
540-231-6937
Email: piglady@vt.edu

Course Description (1 credit)
Experiential learning in the swine industry through opportunities that provide hands-on experiences and exposure to the scope of pork enterprises. Students can expect to apply principles and practices already learned, and add practical experience to their skill sets and knowledge base. Prerequisites: Basic Swine Science Course and Basic Swine Lab.

Course Objectives:
Upon completion of the internship the student will be able to:
- employ critical thinking skills to acquire, analyze, interpret, and integrate information about swine and the pork industry from a variety of sources;
- plan and complete a project applicable to the pork industry;
- demonstrate verbal, visual, and written communication skills;
- give examples of the importance of interpersonal skills in successful management of a pork enterprise;
- contribute to a team effort; and effectively compete for career and/or post-baccalaureate opportunities in the pork industry.

Organization
The course consists of three parts:
- Preparing for the internship
- Completing the internship
- Reflecting on the internship
Learning Modules for the Swine Science Internship

Module I Preparing for the internship (10%)
Provide a brief description of the experience. This may be formulated by the sponsor, it may be a joint effort of the student and sponsor, or it may include input from the student’s advisor and/or the instructor. The following information should be included:

- Describe the responsibilities of the intern
- What will the student be doing during the internship? See the expectations listed in Module II.
- What will be learned?
- What specifically is the student directly responsible for accomplishing?
- What is the desired outcome before the student leaves the internship site(s): a report; a presentation, etc.?
- How will the student be evaluated? One of the requirements of the internship is that the site supervisor complete the attached Supervisor’s Report (or something similar that is already in use by the company) and return it to the instructor. This report becomes part of the student’s grade for the course. In addition, the student is responsible for completing the assignments listed in Module III as part of their final course grade.

- Are there any other evaluations that will take place throughout the internship? How will the student’s work performance be evaluated during the internship? How often will the evaluation occur? What will be included (work ethic, attitude, aptitude)? How will that information be communicated to the instructor?

Module II Completing the internship (80%)
- The internship should provide a minimum of 80 contact hours and opportunities in the following areas
  - Swine husbandry and management
  - Students should work in at least three different departments or areas
  - Personnel management
  - Department and company structure and management
- If possible, an intern should be given the chance to work on a project appropriate to his/her training and the company’s needs
- Interns should expect to give presentations to company representatives about their experiences at the conclusion of the internships

Module III Reflecting on the internship (10%)
- Keep a weekly journal during the internship
  - Use it to summarize events, jot down observations, and reflect on your experiences Internship in the Swine Industry
- At the conclusion of your internship prepare a written report
  - Summarize what you learned and what you accomplished. Did you meet the course objectives listed at the top of the syllabus? Explain how you met each one, or if you failed to meet one, what happened.
- Reflect on short term and longer term impacts of the internship in terms of personal growth, academics, and career preparation
Provide feedback for future planning
- positive points of the internship
- constructive suggestions for improvement of your specific internship and the internship program in general
- The report is due to the instructor within two weeks of the conclusion of the internship or August 10, whichever is sooner
- The report should be 3 to 5 typed pages, double spaced, using 12 pt font and 1-inch margins.

**Grading**
Pass/Fail only. Grades will be assigned by the instructor and will be based on the internship proposal (10%), on-site supervisor’s evaluation of work performance (60%), written work during the internship (20%), and a final written report (10%)