

**Community Development Internship Requirements and Guidelines**  
**Community Development Major**  
**Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Sciences**  
**Texas A&M University**  
**College Station, TX**

Students enrolled in the Community Development Major in the Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University are expected to adhere to the following guidelines when selecting an internship.

**Requirements**

Students applying for their internship must have successfully completed the following 5 courses (15 Credits):

- RPTS 308 (Principles of Community Assessment and Community Change – 3 Credits)
- RPTS 311 (Recreation and Tourism Programs – 3 Credits)
- RPTS 340 (Recreation, Parks, and Diverse Populations – 3 Credits)
- RPTS 408 (Community Development and Supporting Institutions – 3 Credits)

**Selection criteria**

The selected organization/institution for the internship must adhere to the following requirements:

1) Organizations can be non-profits, for profits, or government-related as long as they adhere to the principles and values of community development.

2) Principles and values of community development include those that help community members and stakeholders:

- Understand, develop, and promote local collaborative efforts among different community stakeholders
- Understand, develop, and promote community awareness of local issues and needs
- Understand, develop, and promote organizing efforts
- Understand, develop, and promote local leadership
- Understand, develop, and promote local decision-making
- Understand, develop, and promote volunteerism
- Understand, develop, and promote local empowerment
- Understand, develop, and promote community equity
- Understand, develop, and promote conflict management strategies

3) Examples of organizations suggested for internships include:

- *Local governments:* Economic and Community Development Offices, Urban Planning Offices
- *For-profits:* Chambers of commerce, Community Development banks and other corporations
- *Non-profits:* United Ways, Habitat for Humanity, Community Development Non-governmental Corporations (NGOs)

4) The selected organization must provide a detailed and unambiguous description of the skills to be learned. Internships that fail to promote the following *expected skills* (see below) and instead require students to spend considerable time doing menial tasks (e.g., making coffee and photocopies, answering the phone) will not be approved.

5) The selected organization, but most importantly the tasks to be learned during the internship, must provide the student with skills and capacities that will secure him or her employment in the future. In cases where students fail to provide a clear and direct justification of how the tasks to be learned during the internship relate to future professional employment, the internship will not be approved.

### **Expected skills**

The internship should promote all or the majority of the following skills and capacities:

- 1) Reasoning, communication, and analytic skills
- 2) Planning, programming, and management skills
- 3) Grant writing skills
- 4) Leadership and critical thinking skills
- 5) Data analysis and interpretation skills

### **Expected outcomes**

At the end of the internship, the student should be able to:

- 1) Have developed the majority (or more) of the skills abovementioned
- 2) Have developed a clear understanding the role that different actors in a community play and the resources they bring into the community

3) Explain how the principles of community development were put in practice during their internship

4) Provide a clear and detailed explanation of the missions and objectives of the organization in which he/she interned

5) Provide a clear explanation of how the organization fulfills the needs of the community and how its mission serves the benefit of the community

6) Know how and where to access data and information valuable for the missions and objectives of the organization