Agricultural Externship: Innovating Experiential Curriculum Design

The Morningside College
Applied Agricultural and Food Studies Program

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Why Morningside? We were here before! (1945–1996)

Applied Agricultural and Food Studies curriculum is built upon an educational philosophy that:

- Empowers students with broad academic knowledge
- Provides transferrable skills
- Strong sense of values, ethics, and civic engagement
- Integrates quality coursework and...

Real World Experience
What is the Curriculum?

- Major in Applied Agricultural and Food Studies – B.S.
- Areas of Study (Minors)
  - Agricultural Studies (for non-agriculture majors)
  - Agribusiness
  - Agronomy
  - Environmental Policy/Law
  - Food Safety
I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.

Confucius

Retrieved from: http://thequotes.in/
Kolb’s Model

4-H Model

1. Experience
2. Share
3. Process
4. Generalize
5. Apply

Experiential Learning Model

Pfeiffer, J.W., & Jones, J.E., “Reference Guide to Handbooks and Annuals”
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Andreasen’s MIELCC Model

Figure 3. Model for the Integration of Experiential Learning into Capstone Courses (MIELCC)

The Morningside Externship Experience

Creating a unique continuum in education, providing valuable tools for customizing your career path.

01 Prepare
- Classwork, career exploration and personal interests combine to create possibilities. Industry connections provide Externship opportunities to experience working in a real-world environment.

02 Work
- The Externship provides experience in the everyday challenges and opportunities of an actual workplace. Putting preparation into practice offers invaluable insights into evaluating and designing your career path, all while getting paid.

03 Reflect
- Evaluating your hands-on experience as part of a degree program creates the opportunity to adjust and focus the final phases of coursework, preparing you to better define your career path upon graduation.

How Is the Externship Experience at Morningside College different?
Preparing for the Externship Experience

Builds upon...
- Core academic and agricultural coursework
- Industry exploration
- Personal agricultural interests
The Externship Experience

- Preparation course (Fall of Junior Year)
- Academic exploration and research
- Industry panels and mock interviews
- Research presentations
The Externship Experience

- Active experimentation
- “Extended” Internship
- Summer after Junior year and Fall of the Senior year
- 7-8 month academic
The Externship Experience

- Return for final semester
- Reflection and abstract conceptualization through the Capstone course
- Utilize teamwork, enhance problem-solving skills, and enhance oral and written communication skills
- Connect rich Externship experiences with career aspirations
Coursework connections become evident
“There is so much more to learn”
Excitement for a future career in agriculture
The transition back to daily classes is challenging
Better appreciation for academic outcomes
Written and Oral Communication
Critical Thinking
Workplace Ethics
Integration and Application of Academics
Our Challenges?

- Building a curriculum and course rotation
- Utilize numerous out-of-department courses
- Handling students who do not meet admission requirements or do not want the externship
  - 2.50 GPA
  - No major courses less than C-
- Written application and interview
- Handling transfer students in first few years

THE CHALLENGES—WORTH IT!!!!
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thank you!

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