

Communication Studies Internship Handbook



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Why Choose an Internship?

Internships allow students to apply classroom learning to the workplace. The goal of an internship is to better prepare students for careers with professional experience, networking, and developing skills while discovering likes and dislikes for potential career paths.

What Are The Benefits of an Internship?

- **Gain Valuable Work Experience**
- **Explore a Career Path**
- **Give Yourself an Edge in the Job Market**
- **Develop and Refine Skills**
- **Network with Professionals in the Field**
- **Gain Confidence**
- **Strengthen Your Resume**
- **Transition into a Job**



What Are The Statistics of Success for Interns?

You are 52% more likely to receive a full-time job if you have paid internship experience as opposed to unpaid internships.

52%

Working an internship will give you a 70% higher chance of working with that particular company once the internship ends.

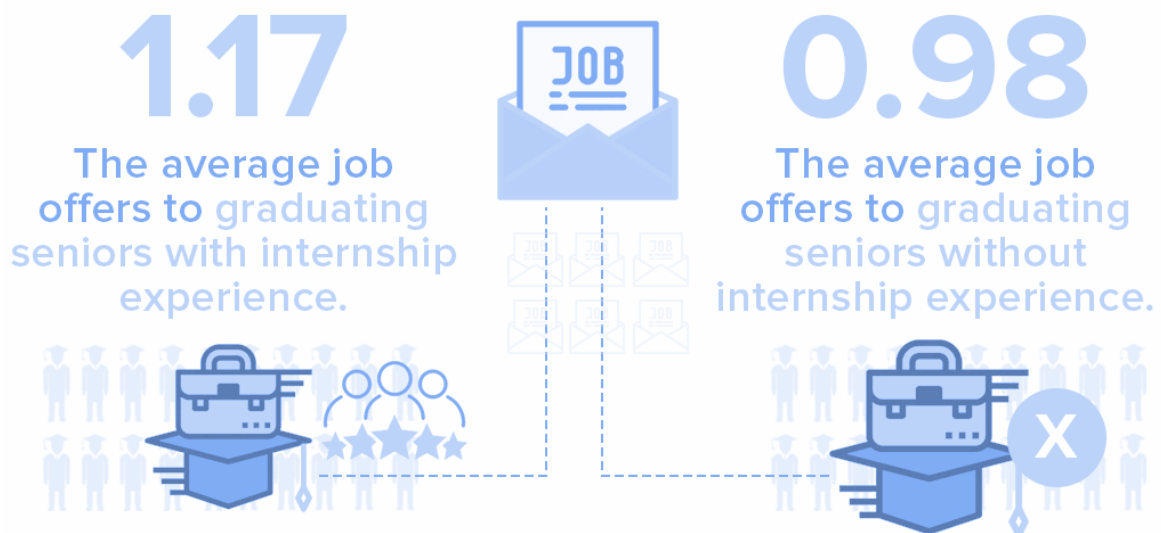
70%

Those who have had internship experience also are 15% less likely to be unemployed post-graduation.

15%

Individuals who've internship experience also make 6% more than those who don't.

6%



Sources: "Finances Online" and "Thrive My Way"

What Do Previous Interns Have to Say?

“My time as an intern was very beneficial to me not only as a person, but also as a professional. It allowed me to work on independent tasks, apply what I learned from my Communication Studies courses to real-life tasks, and helped by preparing me for life after college. When I was interviewing with companies, I was able to refer back to my time as an intern many times. It helped me land my current position with a company that I love. I think the internship helped me land my current job because it gave me confidence and experience as a professional.”

- Haley, 2022 Graduate

“I found my internship experience to be helpful as I learned the intricate details of event planning within a nonprofit setting. This hands-on experience not only strengthened my organizational and multitasking skills, but also enhance my ability to collaborate effectively with diverse teams. The skills learned as an intern have proven valuable in both academic and work settings as I am now able to excel in project management task and navigate complex challenges with confidence.”

- Leah, 2025 Graduate

What Do Previous Interns Have to Say?

“My time in my internships have benefited me as I got hands on experience within my field working events, creating material for marketing, and learning to taking what I’ve learned and putting it into practice. My internships allowed me to build my network and expand upon my knowledge and experience in the industry. They were amazing experiences I will never forget and would do again in a heartbeat.”

- Jessica, 2024 Graduate

“I am thankful for the opportunity to have earned credit toward my degree while getting hands-on experience in my field. During my internship, I had the experience of working directly with an MTSU Communication Studies alumni, who shared with me all things related to marketing, communication, and organizational life. It was inspiring to witness someone successful in my desired field who had once been in my shoes. My internship taught me that with hard work, I can utilize my degree and be like my mentor one day.”

- Kristen, 2023 Graduate



How Can I Earn Course Credit for an Internship?

Students who want to complete an internship register for COMM 4900. Students can earn three credits towards their degree for working 120 hours at an internship while gaining work experience.

The requirements to earn internship credit and sign up for the class:

- Maintain a 2.5 overall GPA and be a standing junior
- Find an internship; opportunities are advertised throughout the academic year on department social media pages, the newsletter, and by email. Additional internship opportunities can be found in the following section.
- Complete the "Internship Agreement Form" (found on the MTSU Communication Studies website) and submit it to Dr. Priddis via email (dee.priddis@mtsu.edu)
- Dr. Priddis will give the student permission to register for COMM 4900 if the internship meets the requirements (allows the student to work at least 120 hours over the course of the term).

Students enrolled in COMM 4900 will be expected to:

- Log Hours
- Participate in Discussion Posts
- Submit Weekly Journals
- Build Resume with MTSU's Career Development Center
- Submit Student Evaluation
- Submit Supervisor's Evaluation

What Internship Opportunities are Available?

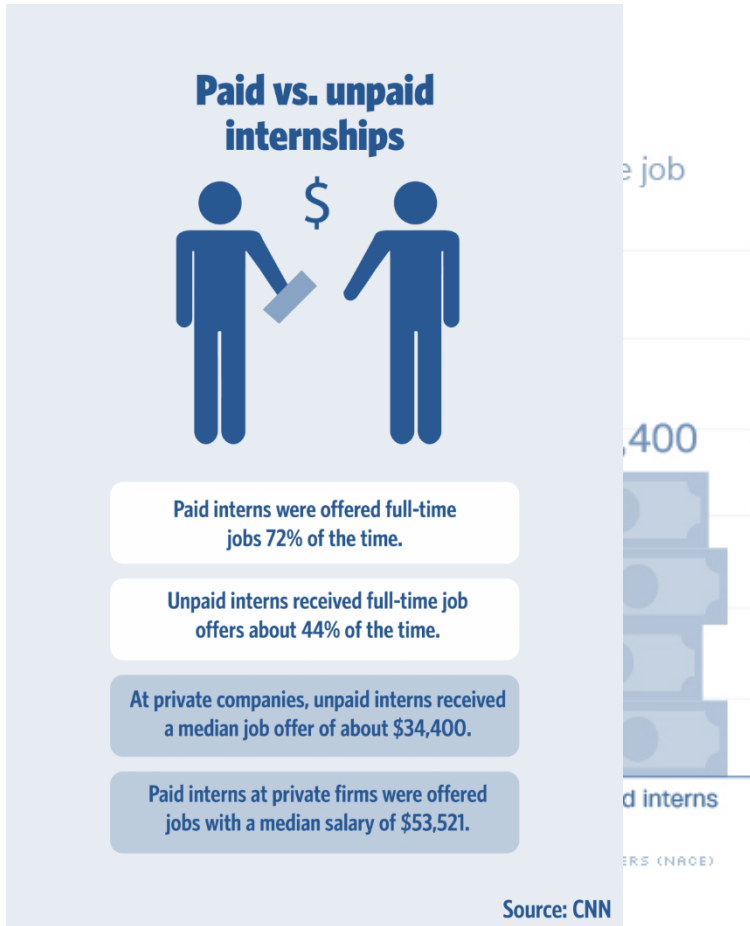
The following organizations offer internships to Communication Studies students. Additional internships can be found on Handshake, LinkedIn, and the Communication Studies Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/2694569910613805/.



Borderless Arts: <https://borderlessartstn.org/>
Camp War Eagle: <https://campwareagle.org/>
CounterMeasures Corp: <https://choosecmc.com/>
Country Music Hall of Fame: <https://www.countrymusichalloffame.org/>
Greenhouse Ministries: <https://greenhousemin.org/>
Project Transformation: <https://projecttransformation.org/tennessee/>
Small Business Development Center: <https://tsbdc.org/>
Tennessee Department of Treasury: <https://treasury.tn.gov/>
United Way Rutherford: <https://www.yourlocaluw.org/>

And so many more!

Paid vs. Unpaid Internship Statistics



Sources: "CNN" and "NACE"

Who Can I Contact?

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How Can I Get Connected?



Join fellow Communication Studies majors by following us on social media for announcements, tips, information, and entertainment!

Facebook Page: MTSU Communication Studies

Facebook Group (request to join): MTSU Comm Studies

Instagram: @mtcommstudies

LinkedIn: MTSU Department of Communication Studies