Guidance for Students: Internship and Career Field Experiences Impacted by COVID-19

The Center for Career and Professional Development (CCPD) recognizes that recent developments with campus and employer closures due to COVID-19 have impacted student internships and other career field experiences. We, along with the Mercer University community, place great value in career field experiences and it is our desire to assist students in completing these engagements in a satisfactory manner. The CCPD is actively monitoring the situation through engagement with our professional networks and we are evaluating best practices in order to provide guidance to the Mercer community. We will continue to monitor this evolving situation, providing new resources and making changes to our recommendations as necessary.

Understanding that long-term planning and impact is not yet known and may not be known for some time, we have put together a plan to address student completion of internships and career field experiences for the spring 2020 semester. The following guidance is sorted into the categories of faculty/college-guided and self-guided.

Faculty/College-Guided
Students participating in faculty/college-guided career field experiences should seek input from their faculty or college on next steps. Following are examples of faculty/college-guided experiences:

- Clinical rotations, preceptorships, healthcare rotations, or similar field experiences
- Student teaching and classroom observations
- Faculty or university led research
- Internship or practicum

Students enrolled in an internship course as part of their academic program should connect with the faculty member in charge of that course. Students enrolled in the CED internship course should speak with Dr. Steve Brown in the Center for Career and Professional Development. For guidance meeting future career field experience requirements, contact the academic advisor.

Self-Guided
Students currently engaged in self-guided career field experiences, such as healthcare shadowing, informational interviews, and voluntary internships should convert their experiences to online. If this is not possible, students are urged to pause these experiences until a later time.

Students who are not receiving academic credit for their internship, may seek individual assistance from their CCPD Career Consultant by scheduling an appointment in Handshake.

Students completing these experiences as part of a graduate or professional school application should seek assistance from the admissions committee at their application institution(s). Additionally, students may connect with a CCPD staff member or with the Pre-Graduate School Advisor in Academic and Advising Services (AAS) for strategies.