

**NOMINATION FORM  
COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICE LEARNING COMPETITION**

Institution

University of South Carolina Beaufort

Title of Project

Human Services Degree Program Internships

Project Director

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Contact Information for Project Director

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Establishment Date of Project

2004-2005 Academic Year

Unit That Administers Project

USCB Department of Social Sciences

Total Number of Students Involved

In this current academic year, 74 students. From 2005 until 2015, 691 students.

## 1. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CHE SERVICE LEARNING DEFINITION

At USCB, each Human Services major currently engages in at least 360 hours of supervised internship service to complete their degree. These hours are completed in three internship courses that each requires a minimum of 120 documented hours at an approved site. Students thus have the opportunity to work in the field and get credit for valuable experiences that are opportunities for learning and the application of acquired knowledge and skills. They also are able to document and market their knowledge, skills and experience in the field by creating a professional portfolio that is submitted during the third internship for evaluation.

At USCB we use a service learning model for our internships. According to the Corporation for National Service (1995), service learning in higher education is a method whereby participants learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service that:

- Is conducted in and meets the needs of the community;
- Is coordinated with a college or university and the community;
- Helps foster civic responsibility;
- Is integrated into and applies the academic curriculum; and
- Provides structured times for the students to critically reflect on the service experience.

Through its internships USCB's Human Services Program seeks praxis—the synthesis of theory and action together—so that our students can embody in their work the philosopher Henri Bergson's dictum: *“Think like a person of action, act like a person of thought.”*

## 2. SEGMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT

This program is offered within the department of social sciences at USCB as one of the four degree programs offered by the department. These programs include bachelor degrees in Communication, Human Services, Psychology and Sociology. The department is overseen by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. We also have an important partnership with the Beaufort County Alliance for Human Services that helps us identify potential host agencies and place students.

## 3. NUMBER OF STUDENTS INVOLVED

In this current academic year we have a total of 74 students in internships. 32 students were enrolled in Fall '14 and currently 42 are enrolled in Spring '15. Based on these enrollment figures we can say that these **74 students** will provide a total of **8,880 hours of service** this academic year (74 students @ 120 hours each = 8,880 hours of service).

If we tally all students who have complete human services internships or are currently enrolled in an internship since the program began in the 2004-2005 academic year we see the full contribution of the students. Between 2004 and the end of Spring '15 we will have **691 students** who provided at least **82,920 hours of service!** (691 students @ 120 hours each = 82,920 hours of service).

#### 4. TARGET COMMUNITIES

Students enrolled in our on-campus program typically perform their service in the Lowcountry. This includes the neighboring counties of Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper, and Allendale as well as nearby Savannah, Georgia.

Students enrolled in our Palmetto College online version can literally provide service anywhere in the world. We currently have students working in Charleston, Greenville, Richland, Lexington, Horry, Georgetown, Florence, Darlington, York and Lancaster counties. In the past we have served students in California and even overseas for military personnel and/or their families.

Typically our students are placed in non-profit agencies, government entities, businesses, schools and health care providers. Students select their sites, with instructor approval, based upon their career interests.

The following partial list of host agencies from this current academic year shows the diversity of the different types of organizations our students are placed in and also the location of our agency partners.

| <b>Agency/Organization</b>                           | <b>Location</b>        |
|--|------------------------|
| Sea Haven, Project Light House                       | Myrtle Beach, SC       |
| Child Abuse Prevention Association                   | Beaufort, SC           |
| Christ Central                                       | Aiken, SC              |
| Sentinel Offender Services                           | Augusta, GA            |
| Averitt, Inc.  | Columbia, SC           |
| Citizens Opposed to Domestic Violence                | Beaufort, SC           |
| Hope Haven   | Beaufort, SC           |
| Boys & Girls Club                                    | Bluffton, SC           |
| Boys & Girls Club                                    | Hilton Head, SC        |
| Boys & Girls Club                                    | Ridgeland, SC          |
| Fostering Great Ideas                                | Greenville, SC         |
| Colleton County Sheriff Department                   | Walterboro, SC         |
| United Way of the Lowcountry                         | Beaufort, SC           |
| Collaborative Organization of Services for Youth     | Beaufort, SC           |
| Bluffton Fire Department                             | Bluffton, SC           |
| Roper St. Francis Hospital                           | Charleston, SC         |
| Healthlink Child Rehabilitation at Memorial Hospital | Beaufort, SC           |
| Hilton Head Early Learning Center                    | Hilton Head Island, SC |
| Affordable Health Care                               | Bluffton, SC           |
| PASO   | Beaufort, SC           |
| Cooperative Ministries                               | Columbia, SC           |
| National Health Care Services                        | Columbia, SC           |
| Beaufort Housing Authority                           | Beaufort, SC           |
| Autism Inc.  | Bluffton, SC           |

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|---|------------------------|
| National Health Care Services                             | Columbia, SC           |
| South Carolina Autism Society                             | Columbia, SC           |
| Beaufort Memorial Hospital                                | Beaufort, SC           |
| Bluffton Self-Help  | Bluffton, SC           |
| Lake Moultrie Nursing Home                                | St. Stephen, SC        |
| Shanklin Elementary School                                | Burton, SC             |
| St. Helena Island Elementary School                       | St. Helena Island, SC  |
| Prichardville Elementary School                           | Prichardville, SC      |
| St. Helena Island Head Start                              | St. Helena Island, SC  |
| Hardeeville/Ridgeland High School                         | Hardeeville, SC        |
| Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs Department | Beaufort, SC           |
| Beaufort County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Department         | Beaufort, SC           |
| Memory Matters  | Hilton Head Island, SC |
| Navy Relief   | Beaufort, SC           |

## 5. PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS

Our service sites clamor for our interns. As mentioned above, with over 100 organizations seeking our interns each semester, we never have enough students to meet demands.

Our Human Services degree program ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the number of degrees awarded by the 16 baccalaureate program offered at USCB. As of 2014 we have graduated 201 students.

One of the best indicators of our program effectiveness is evidenced by the fact that a significant number of agencies that host our interns, employ them. We estimate that more than 20 of our graduates have been hired by their host agencies.

Another important indicator of our program's success can be seen in our community impact. One standard way of measuring community impact is provided by an organization called the Independent Sector ([www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)). This organization develops the economic value of volunteer time and is used by non-profit agencies to document the in-kind dollar value of volunteer time.

In 2013 the Independent Sector rate for volunteer time in South Carolina is \$20.15 per hour. Using this valuation for the current academic year, Human Services students will provide 8,880 hours of service. This will have an economic impact to our communities of **\$178,932** (8,880 service hours @ \$20.15 per hour).

If this valuation of the economic value of student service is used for all service learning in the program since the 2004-2005 academic year we see astounding an economic impact of **\$1,670,838** (82,920 service hours @ \$20.15 per hours).

## 6. DEGREE OF ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING, EXAMPLES OF SERVICE LEARNING ACTIVITIES & REINFORCEMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

One of our biggest accomplishments is that we have developed significant infrastructure to systematically support and enhance the service learning of our interns and the impact this service has on community improvement. This infrastructure includes the following:

- The program was established as a result of an extensive community asset and needs assessment of the region.
- The program is overseen by a community advisory board which includes key stakeholders (not just academia).
- There is a required student orientation at the beginning of each semester.
- Each agency or organization that hosts an intern is also required to attend an orientation to the program.
- Participating students and agencies receive and review an Internship Manual that includes the policies and procedures of the program
- We currently have a list of more than 110 organizations that are willing to host USCB interns and they have posted internship job descriptions with us. These include local non-profit agencies; local, state and federal government entities; public and private schools; local health facilities; faith-based organizations; businesses; local military bases and grassroots community groups. These community partnerships are essential to our success.
- Each semester students must attend either three on campus seminars or have an individual interview with the course instructor. At these seminars and interviews students critically examine their service and are required to apply key concepts, theories and research from their human service, psychology, sociology and other courses to expand their understanding of their field experiences. In addition, they share their successes and challenges and help each other find innovative ways to meet obstacles and make a difference.
- During the semester students also participate in a series of five online response papers that asks students to share with each other and their professor their reflections on how content from course work applies to their field experiences. In these response papers students must also respond to at least one other classmate's posting.
- During the semester students keep a "Reflection Notebook" that helps them make connections to course work and prepares them for effective participation in seminars, interviews, discussion board response papers and also their final paper.
- Job descriptions are reviewed and signed by both the intern and their site supervisor at the beginning of each internship. These job descriptions specify student duties and responsibilities and are approved by the instructor.
- Students are required to complete time sheets that require site supervisor signatures.
- Intern Evaluation Forms are completed by the site supervisor for each intern.
- Site Evaluation Forms are completed by the interns about quality of the experience at the site they work at. This helps us evaluate the quality of each site from the student perspective.
- With the creation of Palmetto College the USCB Human Services program is now available both in on-campus and online models. Due to this dual model of learning we

now are placing students not just in our local Lowcountry region but throughout South Carolina, in other states, and even in other countries.

**7. ACADEMIC CREDIT**

The three required internship courses are offered for academic credit. These courses include:

- HMSV 290: Human Services Internship I (3 credits)
- HMSV 298: Human Services Internship II (3 credits)
- HMSV 490: Human Services Internship III and Capstone Seminar (3 credits)

Each requires a minimum of 120 hours of services at an approved site. The 360 hours total of these three internships meet the requirements of the Council of Standards in Human Service Education (CSHSE) bachelor degree. CSHSE is the human services program accreditation organization.

Also required are compliance with the policies and procedures in the Internship Manual, and completion of required papers and online discussion board response papers.

In the third internship students also submit a professional portfolio for final evaluation. Key elements of the portfolio include:

- A personal and professional vision statement;
- A current resume;
- A sample cover letter;
- Reference letters;
- Summary of internships;
- A personal and professional vision statement; and
- A summary of what it means to be a human services professional.

**8. ANNUAL FUNDING AND BUDGET**

| <u>Item</u>  | <u>Amount</u>   |
|--|-----------------|
| Adjunct Instructor: Fall Semester for 3 internships              | \$ 4,400        |
| Adjunct Instructor: Spring Semester for 3 internships            | \$ 4,400        |
| Adjunct Instructor: Summer Semester for 3 internships            | \$ 2,200        |
| Annual Alliance Contract to Coordinate with agencies             | \$ 5,700        |
| 30% of Human Services Specialist Annual Salary                   | \$16,169        |
| 30% of Human Services Specialist Annual Benefits (30% of salary) | <u>\$ 4,848</u> |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>  | <b>\$35,517</b> |