

Internship/Work experience or Research Project (NRM 5329) for Master of Ag in Range and Wildlife Management

The only required component of the Master of Agriculture is an internship/work experience or research project with somebody in the industry, a government agency, or research institute that is directly related to your area of study. This should be an integrative learning experience, engaging you in real world work situations involving technical problems, teamwork, communication skills, decision-making, and report writing, etc.

The experience should be new and add to your current set of skills. Previous work experience does not exclude you from the internship requirement.

We encourage you to explore internship opportunities as soon as you have been accepted into the online Master of Agriculture degree program. NRM faculty, your major advisor, and other professional contacts can help facilitate your efforts to secure an internship or independent research project, but the responsibility to do so is yours.

For all internships, you **must** submit a **Work Experience Proposal**, developed in collaboration with a faculty member or agency personnel.

The internship is the only required course to obtain a Master of Agriculture degree. Even though you can only register for the internship during the summer session, you are encouraged to start thinking about it, and putting together your proposal, as soon as possible. The work experience or research project can take place any time after registering for the online Master's program (after the approval of the internship proposal).

Your proposal needs to be approved by your Master's program advisor before you start the work experience, and should be submitted at least 3 weeks before the onset of the experience or research project.

At the conclusion of the internship you will be required to submit a paper outlining your experience, what you have learned, and how it ties in with your career. The final paper will only be due at the end of the summer session.

Proposal Guidelines

Students in the online Master of Agriculture program need to write a 3 page (minimum) internship proposal with assistance from their faculty or industry mentors following the format below. The completed proposal will be reviewed by, and receive approval from, the degree program coordinator at Sul Ross. The proposal must be approved at least three weeks prior to the anticipated start date of the internship, so once again we stress the importance of getting started early.

The following items must be included in the proposal:

1. Internship position or research project title

2. Internship/research project site: include a brief summary describing the agency and their goals, complete work address, phone and e-mail contact details for supervisor(s). If student is proposing to do a research project then this section will be used to describe where the research will take place.

3. Timeline: list specific beginning and ending dates, number of work hours/week, and total number of hours you will spend on this internship. For a research project give an outline of when each of the steps for the research will take place (i.e. data collection, analyses, etc.)

4. Work/Project Description: describe in detail your proposed activities: what you will be doing and how you will be doing it. If you will be conducting research, details about the overall project (including a description of the problem, project rationale, objectives, methodology) should be included here.

5. Project Outcomes: explain what new skills and/or knowledge you will be acquiring through this internship, and how this experience will move you forward along your career path. For a research project include your expected results and/or predictions here.

Final Paper Guidelines

The product must:

1. Be typed (using Times New Roman). Font size should be 12 point.
2. Be double-spaced.
3. Have one-inch margins.
4. Have page numbers.
5. Be left justified.
6. Be grammatically sound and free of typographical errors.
7. Include a reference list for information cited (please follow the format of a specific scientific journal).

For the Internship/work experience:

- **Introduction** This should include a historical review of the agency/organization and how that ties in with your background, etc. (with proper citations of sources from which the information is drawn).
- **Description of Experiences and Activities** This section shall consist of a thorough, in-depth discussion of the various experiences and activities the intern was involved in during the internship no matter how minute the task may seem.
- **Perception and Judgments about the Internship** This is the student's own assessment/evaluation of the internship. Be sure to address the following:
 - Did the internship meet your personal expectations?
 - What prior skills did you use in this internship? What new skills and knowledge did you acquire?

- What was your greatest accomplishment?
- What impact did this experience have on your personal growth?
- What insights have you gained regarding your field of study or profession, i.e. how can you use what you have learned in your career in the future
- **Reference list** Alphabetical list of the literature that was cited in the paper

For a research project:

- **Introduction** The introduction is a concise statement of the problem and an outline of the scope, aim, and nature of your project. A review of the literature pertinent to the subject should be included and used to provide context for the internship report. Include any citations in a reference list at the end of the paper.
- **Materials and Methods** The purpose of the Materials and Methods section is to recount, in a concise manner, the materials and methods used to approach the project. It should include sufficient information so that the study could be repeated.
- **Results** The results reflect the findings of your investigation only, not the findings of other researchers in the area. This is a summarized form of extensive data that may appear in the figures, tables and/or appendices.
- **Discussion** The discussion section provides an analysis of the data acquired. In this section, you may draw comparisons with findings of other researchers in the field or even speculate to some degree and, if appropriate, suggest additional research.
- **Summary or Conclusion** The conclusion is a final brief statement, which draws together the objectives and findings of the entire research project.
- **Reference list** Alphabetical list of the literature that was cited in the paper