The Professional Development Series and the emphasis on internship opportunities illustrates the importance of one of the strategic themes of the Dolan School of Business: enabling students to be career-ready. The wide array of events, workshops, and experiential learning options provide a structured forum for students to gain the necessary knowledge, skills and networking strategies to leverage their business education into a productive career.

Internship Timing

It is strongly recommended that all business students complete at least one internship prior to graduation. Many students aim to find their first internship the summer after their sophomore year, with all students encouraged to find an internship related to their desired career path the summer following junior year.

Internships for Academic Credit

Students who meet the qualifications below may opt to have their acquired internship count for academic credit. Both paid and unpaid internships can be done for credit. Reasons to apply include:

- Have completed your sophomore year
- Have a minimum overall GPA of 2.50 or higher (no rounding permitted)
- Have officially declared a major in the School of Business
- Have acquired an internship related to one of the DSB majors

DSB students may participate in a maximum of two, 3-credit internships and two, 1-credit internships during the fall, spring or summer semesters.

For-Credit Internship Qualifications

- Completion of sophomore year
- Cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher
- Apply within two weeks of the beginning of the semester in which the internship takes place

While most students opt to find an internship related to their major or minor, students can apply to intern in any business discipline.

Additional Information

We look forward to working with you! Please stop by the office in DSB 1121 or contact the director of internships and Professional Development at the Dolan School of Business with any questions:

Sarah Bollinger-Feiner
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Overview

The increasingly competitive business world demands a new kind of college graduate: one who is prepared to hit the ground running in a professional environment. Business requires students who have solid skills, exemplary communication and presentation abilities, critical thinking adeptness and unwavering ethics.

The Dolan School of Business seeks to prepare our students for this world through the Professional Development Series, a comprehensive program designed to give DSB undergraduates a competitive edge in a challenging job market. The program is optional, but highly encouraged for all business students.

The program consists of four levels, meant to coincide with a student’s four years at Fairfield University. Students may, however, opt to start or progress in the program at a speed that is comfortable for them.

Program Goals

Level 1: Career Exploration And Assessment
Goals:
• Educate students on the tools and resources they will need and can use to succeed
• Help students explore and start to think about majors/minors, study abroad and other opportunities that will enhance their overall education
• Offer self-assessment opportunities and begin to build skills like communication
• Reward extracurricular involvement (club involvement, athletics, community service)
• Draft a college resume

Level 2: Professional Skills Development
Goals:
• Help students develop the skills and documents (resume, cover letter and LinkedIn profile) they will need to succeed in the professional world
• Educate students more on experiential learning opportunities

Level 3: Gain Experience
Goals:
• Gain experience through experiential learning and take on leadership roles
• Offer networking opportunities
• Continue to develop interview skills and fine-tune resumes and other key documents

Level 4: Connect And Embark
Goals:
• Utilize skills to focus on job search
• Continue to network and build connections
• Begin to learn about the transition from college to career
• Develop essential financial literacy skills

Internships

The Dolan School of Business views practical experience as an important part of a student’s academic program. An internship offers the opportunity to apply classroom theories to real-world situations and use on-the-job experiences to enrich the overall academic program. Internships also provide students with a competitive edge in the job market.

Internship Opportunities

Our ideal location offers a dynamic mix of internship opportunities throughout Connecticut, New York and New England. Thousands of companies are located in Fairfield County alone, and New York City is only an hour’s train ride away. From global Fortune 500 companies to entrepreneurial start-ups and everything in between, students are exposed to innumerable opportunities in every industry imaginable.

Sample Internship Sponsors

- Big 4 Accounting Firms (Deloitte, EY, KPMG and PWC)
- Bank of America
- Merrill Lynch
- IBM
- Indeed.com
- J.P. Morgan
- Letarte
- NBC Sports
- Nestle Waters
- Octagon
- Smartfish Group
- Synchrony Financial
- UBS
- Viacom
- Vineyard Vines