

Frequently asked questions:

Q: Am I required to take the Field Education and Seminar course (JUST 4990)?

A: JUST 4990 is required of all criminal justice majors and is not open to criminal justice minors. Rare exemptions may be made based on specific criteria. If you believe your situation may constitute an exemption you may contact the Field Education Director.

Q: What if I think I should be exempted from JUST 4990 because of some hardship or other extenuating circumstance?

A: Exemptions may occur in rare situations. Any student who believes they should be exempt from Justice 4990 should contact the Field Education Director. If a student is exempted from JUST 4990, the student must take nine hours of criminal justice courses (3 courses) in lieu of the Field Education and Seminar.

Q: May I use my current employment as an internship?

A: No. Additionally, students who are employed full-time (40 hours/week) should speak to the Field Education Director about their circumstances.

Q: I worked in a criminal justice capacity in the past. May I use that experience as an internship?

A: No.

Q: May I use prior military experience as credit for an internship?

A: No.

Q: Does ECU secure my internship for me or do I find it myself?

A: Students must secure their own internship. Conducting a search for the internship is part of the learning process. The Field Education Director will provide a list of agencies that the internship program has partnered with in the recent past to use as a guide to students. The Field Education Director does not place students in internships, and there are no default placements for students who cannot find an internship. The responsibility for finding an internship site rests with each student.

Q: What are some examples of internships that will not be approved?

A: Any agency that will not have the student engaging in activities related to criminal justice will not be allowed to host an intern. Specific examples:

- Restaurant and retail sales jobs
- Working on political campaigns
- Working for an elected official who is not involved in a full-time criminal justice capacity (legislators etc.)
- Bail bonding agencies

Q: I have military obligations during the semester of my internship.

A: Time spent fulfilling military obligations does not count toward the required contact hours. If a student's military obligations will prohibit them from obtaining the required number of contact hours, the student should postpone the internship until a subsequent semester.

Q: I want to intern at an agency where a close relative is employed. Is that allowed?

A: Students may not work under the supervision of a relative, which includes but is not limited to parent, spouse, child, sibling, uncle, aunt, grandparent, or in-law. If a relative, as defined in the previous statement, is employed at the student's agency, the decision to allow the student to work at the agency will rest with the Field Education Director. If the Field Education Director determines that the agency is inappropriate for this reason, the student may not intern at that agency. If this is discovered after a student has begun an internship, the Field Education Director reserves the right to terminate the internship. Typically, a student will be disallowed from working with a relative if it is determined that there will be a close working relationship with the relative, and/or if the agency is so small that a close working relationship cannot be avoided.

Additionally, students may not work under the supervision of anyone with whom they are having intimate or amorous relationship, or in any situation in which the existence of an intimate or amorous relationship is apparent. The guidelines that apply to working with relatives apply to working with people with whom the student has an intimate or amorous relationship. If the Field Education Director discovers the existence of an intimate relationship, the student may be withdrawn from the placement.

Q: I want to work at two internships during the same semester. Is this allowed?

A: Not for credit in this program. If students want to take on two internships, one must be their internship site for the purposes of the Field Education and Seminar, and the other would be strictly voluntary. Students are also cautioned against taking on too much as JUST 4990 requires a significant investment of time.

Q: I want to take an internship prior to my final semester to gain experience and build my resume. Is this allowed?

A: On a voluntary basis. You will only receive credit towards graduation from the program when you complete an internship along with the Field Education and Seminar course (JUST 4990) during your final semester. If you wish to gain experience through volunteer work, you may certainly do so on your own.

Q: Will JUST 4990 be the only course in which I am enrolled my last semester?

A: No. All students enrolled in JUST 4990 will also be enrolled in JUST 4500, Issues and Problems in Criminal Justice. JUST 4500 is independent of JUST 4990 and must also be taken in the student's final semester.

Q: I need to take another course in addition to Justice 4990 and 4500 during my final semester. Can I do that?

A: No. Per the catalog, students should have completed all other coursework before enrolling in JUST 4990 and JUST 4500. Students cannot enroll in any ECU course during the semester they are enrolled in JUST 4990 & 4500.

Q: I had an internship lined up and was set to take JUST 4990 & 4500 but failed a course in the preceding semester. I need to retake the course or take another course in its place. May I continue and take JUST 4990 and 4500? What do I do?

A: No. Per the catalog, students should have completed all other coursework before enrolling in JUST 4990 and JUST 4500. Students cannot enroll in any ECU course during the semester they are enrolled in JUST 4990 & 4500.

Q: I have already attended a previous internship orientation meeting but decided not to take the internship as planned. Am I required to attend another meeting?

A: Yes, even if a student has attended a prior orientation meeting, the student must attend the one for the upcoming semester in which they will take the internship.

Q: What is an Affiliation Agreement?

A: This is the legal contract that must be in place with ECU and your placement site before you can receive ECU Department of Criminal Justice program credit as an intern.

Q: Do I play any part in the Affiliation Agreement process?

A: No, the affiliation agreement is entered into between ECU and the internship placement site.

Q: What if my agency refuses to sign the Affiliation Agreement?

A: You will not receive internship credit for the ECU Department of Criminal Justice internship (JUST 4990). You will need to apply for a different internship.

Q: What if I get dismissed from my agency?

A: This is determined on a case-by-case basis. If the dismissal is appropriate and warranted, such as instances where the student abuses the privileges of the internship experience by breaking rules, not adhering to instructions, or other misconduct, the student will not be allowed to attempt another internship with this program.

Results of dismissal *may* include but are not limited to:

- 1) The student may receive a grade of F for the course and not be allowed to intern in future semesters;
- 2) The student may be allowed and/or encouraged to withdraw from Justice 4990 but not allowed to intern in future semesters. In the event a student is dismissed from an agency, the Field Education Director will consult with the agency and the student. If the Professor has determined that the dismissal was unjust, or that the student is deserving of another chance at an internship, the Director and the student will work together to facilitate such an arrangement.