Internship or no internship...that is the question

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Qualifying for an internship

- In order to complete an internship, a student must be approved to participate in the internship.
  - Must receive a letter grade of B or above in FSHS 110 and FSHS 350
  - Must be a senior
  - Must have a minimum GPA of 2.50

- Students select their field placement in a public or private agency that serves family, youth, children, or the elderly.

- Merely selecting the internship option does not guarantee approval of placement in an agency or organization for the internship. You must demonstrate that you have the competencies that are expected from the major in which you are enrolled and that you are likely to be employable in the human services field upon graduation.

- The semester prior to the internship experience, if the student meets the qualifications, the student enrolls in FSHS 579 Orientation to the FSHS Internship for one credit hour. After completion of this course, the internship supervisor and/or the student decides whether or not the student will participate in the internship.
During your internship

- If given permission to participate in the internship experience, students must enroll in FSHS 580 Internship in FSHS for 8 hours of credit and in FSHS 585 Professional Seminar in FSHS for 3 credit hours.
- There is a separate section of FSHS 585 for students who are completing the internship. You must enroll in the section that is specifically for students enrolled in FSHS 580.
- Students spend an average of 20 hours per week in their field placement.
- Since the internship is demanding and the class work is also time consuming, students should plan on limiting their course load during the internship semester to no more than 12-14 credit hours.
Benefits of an internship

- Students gain supervised experience in their field of study by completing 320 hours in a field placement during their final semester.
- Networking opportunities
  - Sense of community with other students in the internship
  - Exposure to other community organizations and agencies
- Sometimes an internship can lead to a job offer.
- To become a Certified Family Life Educator, the internship option must be completed.
Reasons for not completing an internship:

Who might not want to complete an internship?

- You aren’t eligible because you don’t meet the grade requirements, and you don’t have the time/money to retake courses.
- You have to work while you go to school, and balancing work, the class requirements of the internship, and the actual internship would be extremely difficult and stressful. In fact, most students do not work while they are completing the internship, or they cut back on their working hours.
- You already have lots of hands-on experience working with people.
- You’re not sure what you want to do after you graduate, but you like the classes in our program and think that they’ll help you no matter what you do.
- You have a very specific career goal that does not require the completion of an internship.
Selecting an area of concentration:

- If you decide that an internship is not for you, then you’ll need to select an area of concentration.
- You must select 12 hours of professional electives in courses numbered 100 level or higher from the content areas of Family Studies & Human Services, American Ethnic Studies, Gerontology, Leadership Studies, Political Science, Psychology, Women’s Studies, and courses from the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work.
  - Your area of concentration requires nine hours of courses from one of the content areas listed above.
- You have the opportunity to develop an area of expertise. This will give you a greater sense of professional identity.
- As you select your area of concentration think about what your goals are and how you plan to accomplish those goals.
- Selecting your concentration is an intentional decision that will help you shape your future professional future.
Capstone Experience in FSHS

- FSHS 590 Capstone Experience in FSHS must be taken in your last year if you are not completing an internship.
- Failure to do so may delay your graduation!