

Frequently Asked Questions Internship in Psychology (PSYC 575)

Palm Desert Students Only

How do I find an internship site?

Students are responsible for finding their own internship site. I'd suggest using Google to search for Nonprofit Organizations in the Coachella Valley or in the Yucca Valley. Another option, you can go out into the community to find a site. Ideally, your internship site will be the same organization you currently volunteer at since we ask all of our Palm Desert students to give back to their local community through volunteering. Finally, you could drop by my office (IW-110) and we could discuss internship site options. Over the past decade we have successfully placed our students with numerous organizations in the Coachella Valley or the Yucca Valley.

Why should I choose an internship?

There are three good reasons for choosing a site. First, there are some jobs that only hire from within. Being an intern can get your "foot in the door." Second, think about future letters of reference. What would make your next job application look better? Finally, use the internship to try out a future occupation. You are only giving up 120 hours of your time to find out if this really is your dream job.

How do I register for an internship (PSYC 575)?

First, locate an internship site and meet with their volunteer coordinator. Next, complete the Internship Application - available online. Finally, give the completed Application to the Coordinator of Psychology at PDC (IW-110). Only fully completed applications will be processed. Once your Internship Application has been approved the Coordinator of Psychology at PDC will enroll you into PSYC 575. Students cannot enroll themselves into PSYC 575.

When is the last day to apply for an internship?

We close the Internship class the first week of each quarter. Therefore, it is vital to give the completed the Application and the Learning Plan to the Coordinator of Psychology at PDC **before** the start of the quarter.

Why can't I do a late add?

To complete 120 hours in one quarter you need to be at your internship site 12 hours every week. Missing even one week can put you in a position where you have to make up 12 hours of time. Most students don't have 12 extra hours of time.

I heard the class doesn't meet.

Do NOT listen to these people. They are wrong. At our Palm Desert campus students will meet individually with the Coordinator of Psychology each week. Attendance is **MANDATORY!**

Can I get paid?

Yes, but only 80 hours can be paid. You will have to volunteer 40 hours that are unpaid, and you will need to learn a new skill. During the application process the Coordinator of Psychology at PDC will review your current paid job description, along with your plans for the new skill(s).

Can I start my hours before the class starts?

No. The Internship class (PSYC 575) begins on the first day of instruction for the quarter.

Can I volunteer over the Winter break or Summer break and then apply those hours to an internship?

No. The 120 hours must be completed during the quarter you are enrolled in the Internship class.