UVM Fruit Program and Catamount Educational Farm Undergraduate Intern Program

Spring 2021

Dr. Terence Bradshaw, Internship coordinator

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Internships conducted under the direction of Dr. Bradshaw are intended to provide undergraduate students experience with diverse activities relating to specialty crops production; farm marketing; field research; and producer education.

The UVM Fruit Program conducts and provides research and educational activities in support of commercial tree fruit and grape producers in Vermont and the surrounding region. Projects include evaluation of grape and apple germplasm for fruit quality and crop production; supporting apple growers to provide fruit to cider markets; Integrated Pest Management (IPM) monitoring of orchards and vineyards; and general outreach support for the farming community.

Catamount Educational Farm (Cat Farm) is a division of the UVM Horticulture Research & Education Center located in South Burlington, VT. The mission of Cat Farm is to model sustainable farming practices through a working vegetable and fruit farm that provides educational and research opportunities for the UVM community. Students are integral in carrying out all activities of the farm, and this experiential learning environment provides them with real and diverse sustainable farm management skills. All produce on the farm is grown under Cat Farm direction to provide for long-term soil fertility, crop planning, and integration with teaching and research activities. Produce grown on the farm is sold to the UVM community to fund the program, through: summer and fall community-supported agriculture (CSA) shares delivered to campus and picked up on-farm; weekly farm stands on campus and at the farm; and institutional sales to UVM's Sodexo food service. Students in associated programs provide the majority of farm labor in an experiential learning setting.

General Internship Requirements:

Internships are designed to provide real-world experiences for students to apply their classroom learning. Each position is flexible based on student experience and skills. Internships are open to students across the University, but are geared primarily to meet the needs and requirements of students in CALS, Food Systems, Ecological Agriculture, Environmental Studies, and Community Development and Applied Economics programs.

Student interns will typically enroll in PSS 190D: Internship in the semester in which they are conducting their work. For some more advanced projects or where necessary to meet program requirements (e.g., ENVS capstone), students may enroll in PSS 290 but those internships are expected to have a higher level of commitment and rigor. Students must enroll and pay for credits, if applicable, during the semester that internship activities take place, even if in the summer. Internships may be taken for 1-6 credits per semester. UVM Academic Internship Polices apply for all internship experiences, including calculating credit hours. In general, students should plan on spending forty hours of effort for each credit hour received.

All internships are assigned via instructor permission. Each internship position has unique responsibilities and requirements, see position descriptions below. All internships require a degree of self-motivation, and most positions provide a significant degree of flexibility for students to have substantial input on project development and implementation. Internships begin with a meeting between Dr. Bradshaw and the student to outline expectations, learning goals, and internship outputs. Students will then typically work self-directed to accomplish activities.

Generally speaking, all internships are unpaid. If a student receives Federal Work Study as part of their financial aid package, that may be applied to effort conducted under the internship. In certain circumstances where interns are performing specific projects as outlined in an extramurally-funded project, paid positions may be created. Those positions will be posted as such.

Positions available for spring 2021:

- Catamount Educational Farm Operations Assistant
    - Provide winter maintenance in orchards and vineyard in support of UVM Fruit Program and Catamount Educational Farm. Includes pruning, grafting, pruning, IPM trap setup, and pruning. Activities are performed at UVM HREC four miles south of campus. Most work will be conducted outside in winter conditions. Requirements: must be sufficiently physically fit to perform bending, lifting, climbing, pulling, and other movements associated with pruning.
- UVM Fruit Program Communications assistant
    - Develop, proof, and maintain digital communications platforms for research, teaching, and outreach efforts of UVM Fruit Program. Requirements: experience in web design. Desired but not required: graphic design experience.
- UVM Fruit Program Research Assistant
    - Provide research assistance for the UVM Fruit program. Tasks will include performing literature reviews, collecting and summarizing data, statistical analysis, and program review. Qualifications: prior experience in working with data and/or literature reviews. Working knowledge of statistical programs desired but not required.
- PSS Teaching Assistant
    - Collect, enter, and summarize publicly-available data from USDA and other sources to develop teaching tools for food/farm policy courses. Qualifications: working knowledge of Excel. Data visualization experience preferred but not required.
- Horticulture Research & Education Center Program Assistant
    - Develop safety protocols and codify standard operating procedures for UVM Horticulture Research Center and Catamount Educational Farm. This intern will work closely with HREC / CEF staff and UVM Safety officer to update safety notebooks and compliance tracking system. Requirements: attention to detail. Will require some visits to HREC four miles south of campus.

Please email tbradsha@uvm.edu with “internship” in the subject line and a statement of interest, list of appropriate coursework taken, and two references who can speak to your academic and/or work history. Applications will be accepted immediately, and decisions completed by November 30.