

# College of Arts & Sciences Internship Program

## 5-Year Program Report

2017-2022

Program Organizers: Richard Watts and Sophia Trigg

### **What we do:**

The CAS Internship Program is run by Sophia Trigg, CAS Experiential Learning Coordinator, and Richard Watts, faculty member and Internship Coordinator, with support and direction from Associate Dean Abby McGowan and Dean Bill Falls.

In an effort to interweave professional development with our students' liberal arts educations, our primary mission is to help students find internships and secure credit and funding for those opportunities.

For students that need help finding an internship, we either provide support in their search for a traditional internship, or recommend that they enroll in our mentored internship program—Communities of Practice—which matches students with opportunities in their chosen field.

Once a student secures an internship, we help them enroll in credit, either through AS-190, our general internship course open to all majors, or through department credit if their internship is closely linked to their major or minor. If the internship is during the summer, we provide funding opportunities that will help them accept an unpaid or under-paid internship offer.

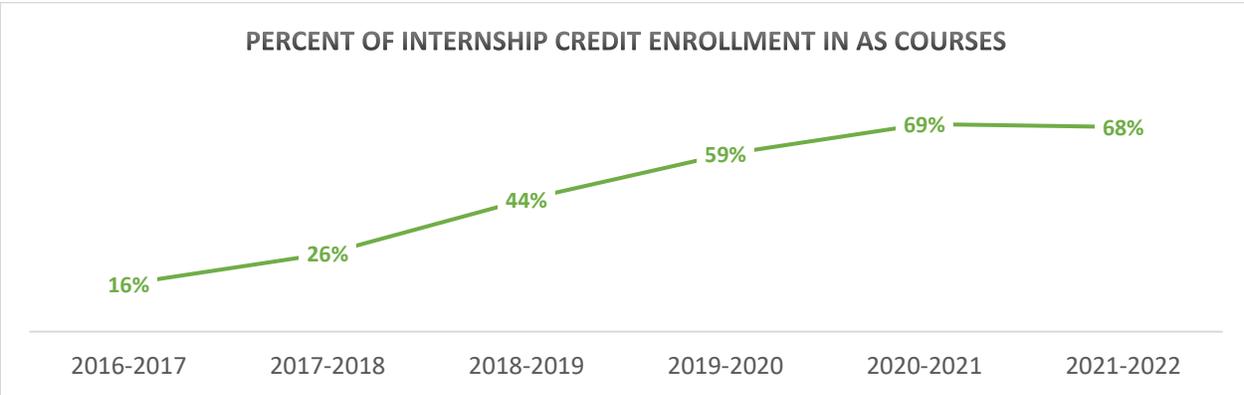
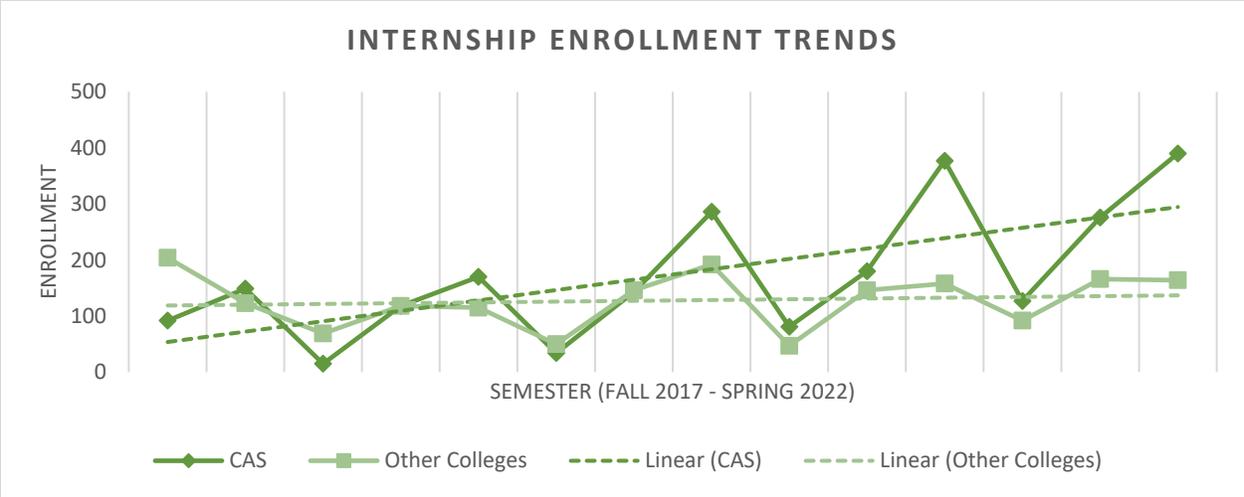
We also create and run specialty internship programs that are open to all majors such as the on-campus Communities of Practice program, The Washington Center, Semester in the City, Arts in Action and others, detailed below.

Through these diverse programs and outreach efforts, we have expanded the reach and audience for internships within the college by providing opportunities for students at multiple stages of professional development and career-readiness.

### **Credit:**

**2,548 students enrolled in CAS internship credit from fall 2017 through summer 2022.**

- 751 of those students enrolled in “AS” intern courses (29%)
- 490 of those students participated in the Communities of Practice (19%)
- 91 of those students went to Boston, D.C. or New York City for full-semester internship experiences (Semester in the City, The Washington Center, Arts in Action).



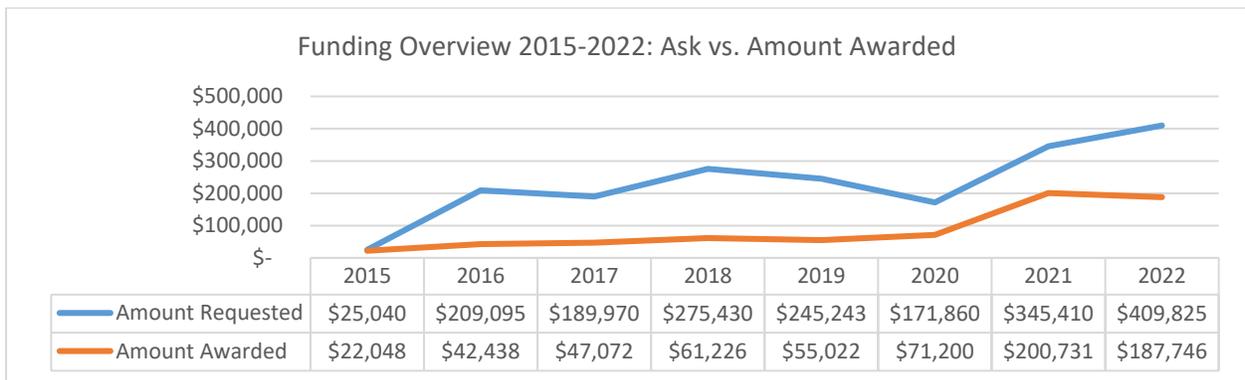
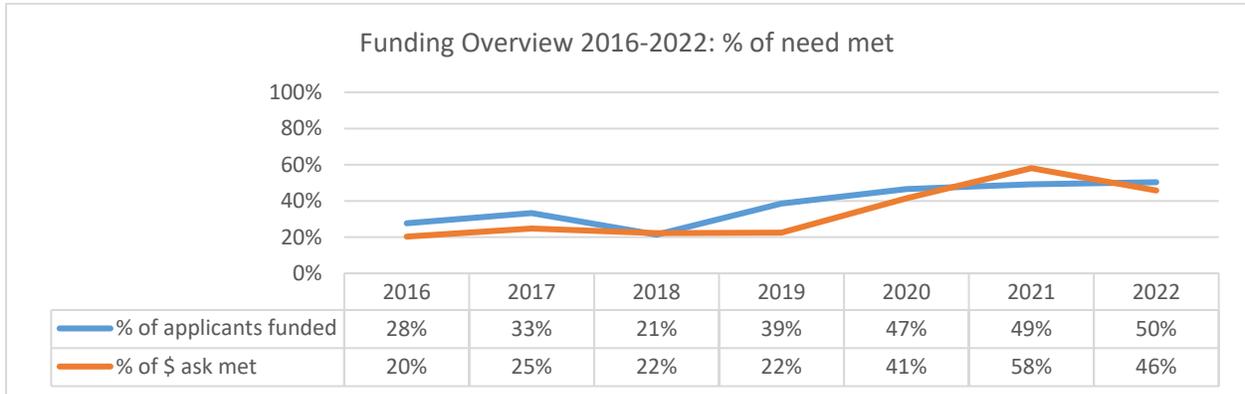
**Funding:**

**\$622,997 has been awarded in summer funding to 239 students** between summer 2017 and summer 2022 to help them cover living expenses while completing unpaid or underpaid internship opportunities.

- \$303,314 has been awarded from the CAS Internship Scholarship Fund.
- \$60,305 was awarded from the Plotkin Internship Fund (2015-2017).
- \$19,125 has been awarded from the MAZON internship fund to students interning at MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger in Washington, D.C.
- \$36,941 has been awarded from the Guzak Family Endowed Internship Fund.
- \$33,089 was awarded from a one-time grant from the Vermont Department of Labor in 2020.
- \$85,605 has been awarded from the Seder-Rosen Internship Fund.
- \$55,550 has been awarded from the Bluhm-Wolf Internship Fund.
- \$7,400 has been awarded from the Department of Art & Art History
- \$17,455 has been awarded from the Department of Geography.
- \$34,400 has been awarded from the Department of English
- \$4,000 has been awarded from the Department of History

- \$6,400 has been awarded from the Humanities Center
- \$6,000 has been awarded from the Department of Political Science
- \$8,400 has been awarded from the Center for Research on Vermont.

The average award is \$2,607 per student.



## Programs & Partnerships:

[Communities of Practice \(COPs\)](#) are on-campus, cohort style internships directed by professionals working in or recently retired from their fields. Beginning summer 2019, groups of undergraduate students have been under the mentorship of news editors, marketing strategists, and researchers, getting a taste of working in a professional setting.

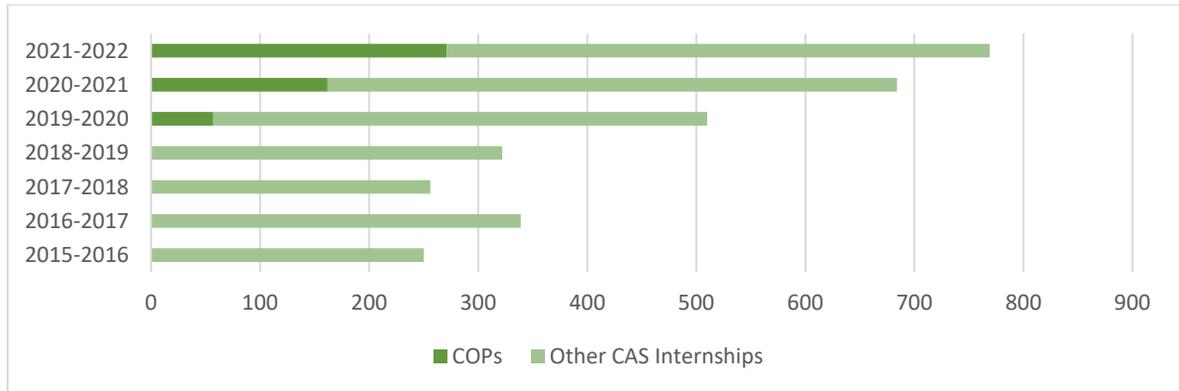
Interning under the College of Arts & Sciences' Communities of Practice model is ideal for students who are taking a first step into work-based learning, or who want to work with professionals but lack the ability to travel around the state.

Communities of Practice have been run in the following areas:

- Reporting & News Media
- Communications & social media
- Energy & Transportation (sustainability)
- Legislature & Government
- Local Democracy & Vermont Research
- Public Health

The COP model also allows more individual attention than students may receive in external internships. COP leaders meet with their students on a weekly basis and regularly review, edit, and comment on their work products. We supervise the COP leaders and hosted weekly meetings with them.

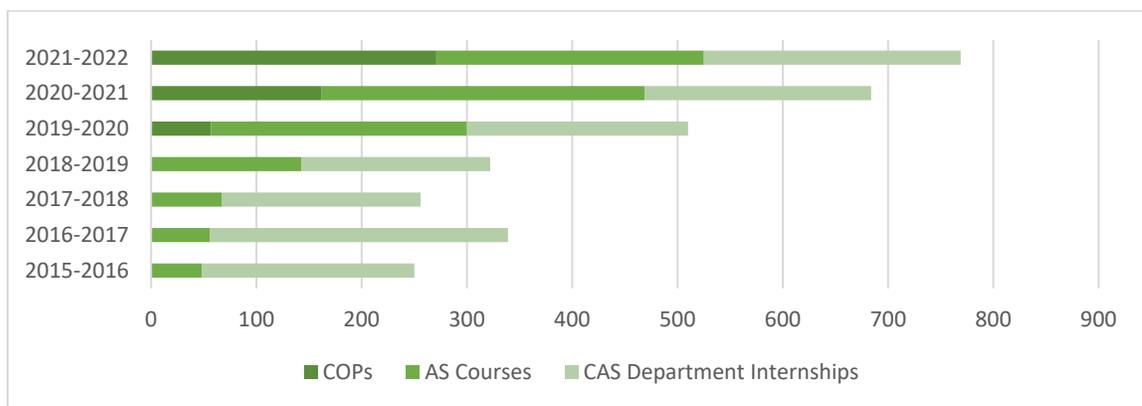
This model helps more students do internships overall and, this semester, was instrumental in enabling almost all of the students to continue a rich internship experience after UVM transitioned to online learning. Because COP leaders were able to work with each student individually both to support them and to help pivot their projects to on-line/remote learning.

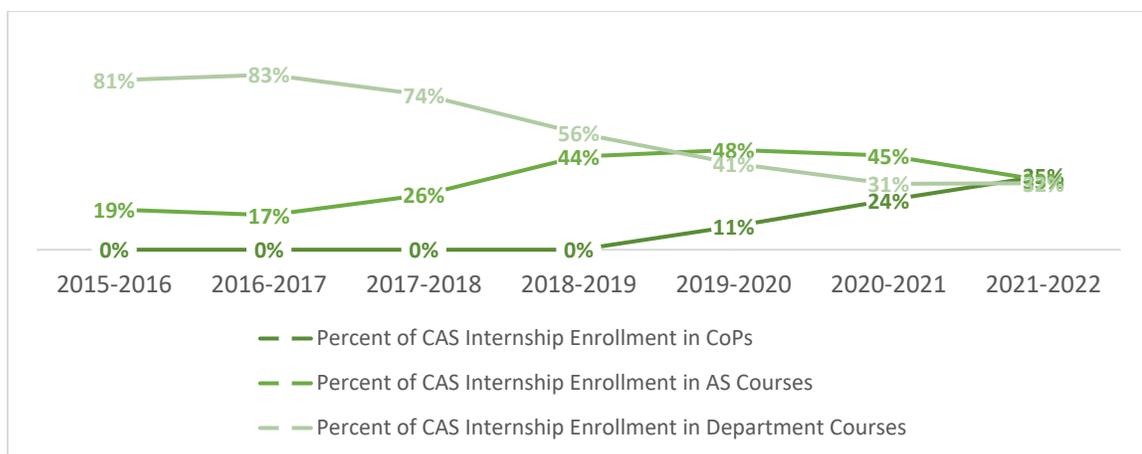


**AS-190** is our general internship course that offers students credit for internships in any industry. This course is ideal for students in their sophomore, junior and senior years who have found an independent internship. Students enroll in 1 credit for every 40 hours they work at their internship.

In the course, students complete weekly journal reflections, professional development activities, resume work, informational interviews, and more.

Since 2015, 535 students have gotten internship credit through this course (or its previous iterations) for internships both within and external to UVM. Since its inception, the AS-190 course has taken an ever-growing percentage of internship credit enrollment in the college:





**Arts in Action** is a semester-long socially engaged experience in New York City with a focus on community, art and activism. Students spend a semester interning with a community arts organization and gaining firsthand knowledge of the art world and arts in community. This program is for students that are interested in using the visual arts and the city of New York as a lens for exploring and understanding issues of inequality and the struggle for social justice.

The program consists of a 3-day-per-week internship, professional development work and an academic course, Art and Activism. Open to students of all majors. The program awards 16 credits:

- 9 internship credits under AS-190
- 3 credits for an evening seminar under AS-196
- 3 credits for professional development work under AS-096
- 1 credit for a course taken the semester prior under AS-096

This program is run through CAS and UVM Travel Study and debuted in Spring 2020. It was cancelled in Spring 2021 due to the COVID pandemic but recommenced in Spring 2022.

**The Washington Center (TWC)** is a semester-long academic internship program in Washington D.C. for students of any major. TWC offers placements in over [400 organizations](#) throughout D.C.

Students work 32 hours per week at an internship placement, take one evening course in the subject of their choice, and complete professional development workshops throughout the semester. UVM partners with The Washington Center to provide 18 UVM credits to students who participate in the program during the fall or spring semester:

- 12 internship credits under AS-190
- 3 credits for an evening seminar under AS-196
- 3 credits for professional development work under AS-096

And 12 UVM credits to students who participate during the summer:

- 6 internship credits under AS-190

- 3 credits for an evening seminar under AS-196
- 3 credits for professional development work under AS-096

**Semester in the City (SITC)** is a semester-long academic internship program run through the College for Social Innovation in Boston. SITC is open to all majors.

Students work 4 days per week at their internship site, take a Wednesday evening course focused on social entrepreneurship and reaching diverse populations, and develop professional skills on Fridays. UVM partners with Semester in the City to offer 15 credits to students in the program,:

- 9 internship credits under AS-190
- 3 credits for an evening seminar under AS-196
- 3 credits for professional development work under AS-096

### **Summer internship partners:**

CAS has partnered with the following organizations to offer [fully funded internships](#) to our students:

**The Fleming Museum:** The CAS-Fleming Museum Internship at the Fleming Museum of Art offers an exciting opportunity for those interested in a career in museums or the arts to gain crucial professional experience at one of Vermont's premier museums of arts and culture. Interns will split their time between the curatorial and collections management department.

**MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger (D.C. or L.A. branch):** MAZON is a national organization inspired by Jewish values and ideals working to end hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds in the U.S. Internship activities may include: review of policy and legislative proposals regarding food insecurity, developing strategies in response to those proposals, helping to implement those strategies, outreach to anti-hunger organizations, providing technical assistance on advocacy to direct service anti-hunger organizations, participating in coalition and/or community meetings.

**Shepherd Higher Education Consortium on Poverty:** This program is run by the College of Education and Social Services but we are proud to send at least 1 CAS intern each year. The Consortium's signature Summer Internship Program provides UVM students with an opportunity to participate in an 8-week funded internship at various partner agencies across the country. In addition to the community-based internship, there is an opening conference and a closing convening, allowing students to share their experiences and engage in reflection activities.

**Burlington Free Press:** Develop, integrate and apply skill sets and experiences in support of the newsroom team. Interns will work alongside journalists on reporting assignments covering the Burlington area. This includes contributing story ideas, conducting interviews and writing stories. Interns also work with social media channels such as Twitter, Instagram and Facebook to extend content reach.

**VPR:** The newsroom intern reports and produces daily content for the afternoon news program. The intern works with the program host and the news director to learn and assist with entry-level tasks and larger assignments. This may include reporting stories, producing and booking interviews, publishing web pieces, and producing audio features.