

UVM INTERFAITH CENTER
Undergraduate Internship Description

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The overall mission of the UVM Interfaith Center is to equip and empower individuals, and the university as a whole, to engage more comfortably and competently with matters of spirituality and religion. This effort is a matter of equity and social justice, as it is about creating a university environment that enables students, staff and faculty to bring their full selves to their work, studies and social engagement – including their spiritual and religious identities. It is also a matter of preparing students to be effective citizens and leaders who are able to engage and collaborate and with individuals/groups who possess core values and understandings of the world that may be different from their own.

The Interfaith Center understands *spirituality* as the task of “meaning making:” the universal human need to answer those questions of “Who am I, why am I here and what is my relationship to that which is beyond me?” Some of us wrestle with these questions through the help of the stories, symbols, rituals and relationships found within a religious tradition. Some of us utilize the resources of a philosophical commitment (e.g., humanism) or engagement with the natural world (e.g., understanding self as part of the greater biological life cycle) to make sense of our life and find meaning and purpose. The Interfaith Center is about creating space and opportunities for individuals to identify and employ the core values that sustain and guide their lives, learn about and engage with the values of others, as well as reflect upon the ethical impact these values/systems have upon themselves, their communities and the world.

This internship provides students an opportunity to:

- Understand and articulate the importance of engaging spirituality and religion in higher education, particularly at a public institution.
- Increase their own religious literacy and assist in developing and implementing opportunities for students, staff and faculty to do so as well.
- Develop programming, marketing, organizational, interfaith leadership, and interpersonal skills.

Internship tasks and projects may include, but are not limited to:

1. Assist with the effective functioning of the Interfaith Center, helping create an informative and inviting space for all visitors.
2. Represent the Interfaith Center in outreach efforts (e.g., tabling, flyering, presentations) to engage students, staff and faculty with the Interfaith Center and its programs and services.
3. Assist with social media, identifying/creating resources and producing marketing/educational materials.
4. Participate in implementing a series of monthly interfaith dinners, an interfaith leadership retreat, and/or other IC programs.
5. In collaboration with IC staff, identify and complete an individual project (e.g., program or presentation, research project, creative outreach initiative) that will both benefit the Interfaith Center and engage/develop your particular skills and interests.

If you would like to apply for this opportunity, please email please send the following to Laura.Engelken@uvm.edu:

- A statement about what interests you in this internship and what you think you would bring to it. Include your name and year.
- A resume (if you have one)