

The HDFS Senior Capstone Two-Semester Internship Course:
Required to Be Taken in Sequence Fall and Spring Senior Year

The HDFS 290 Internship requirement is designed and offered regularly as a sequenced two-semester course for Senior Year with the first 3 credits offered in the fall and the second 3 credits offered in the spring.

We require students to follow the Fall-Spring Senior Year sequence for HDFS 290 for program integrity and pedagogical reasons. Students get the most out of both the direct internship experience and the related academic course when they are take it for two full semesters with their peers and an assigned course instructor. Alternative offerings of HDFS 290, including as Independent Studies during the academic year or the summer place a burden on program faculty and also reduce student learning and development (and related student success) through the capstone experience.

The two semesters of HDFS 290 are linked but students will receive a grade at the end of each semester, based upon the work completed during that semester. Students must be successful in the first semester –both academically and with respect to professional performance—to be eligible to take the second semester. Work in the second semester builds upon the work from the first semester; success is measured both in terms of academic requirements and professional performance/behavior. Because of this, and to deepen student learning and skill development, students are expected to remain in the same placement across both semesters. Students who need or wish to switch placements may be accommodated, but such students should note that additional work will be required in order to be prepared to engage in the second semester requirements that build upon first semester assignments.