



Volunteer College Internships

“Real-World” Juvenile Justice Work Experience



Real World Experience

In the competitive world of professional employment, practical experience in a student’s field of study is an invaluable addition to classroom learning. For many college students at least some of their education takes place outside the classroom at potential employers in the form of internships. Recognizing the value of this experience the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) partners with colleges and universities to provide volunteer internship opportunities at DJJ county offices, and at other DJJ institutions and locations.

DJJ volunteer college internships are open to college students from 2 and 4 year institutions and graduate students with majors in criminal justice, sociology, psychology, social work, and other human services related disciplines, who are interested in gaining work experience in their respective fields of study.

The “real-world” experience of a DJJ internship exposes students to things they may have only read about, and can help them decide which particular career path would be best for them. Interns learn first-hand about the juvenile justice vocation, gain experience in the demands of specific jobs, and learn critical professional and personal skills that will be useful if they choose to enter the field.

Internship Structure

DJJ Internships are unpaid and usually 120 hours in length, depending on the institution’s requirements. Interns work alongside full time DJJ employees doing many of the duties associated with their jobs including probation/parole officer, intake counselor, social worker, psychologist, and clerical positions. They attend meetings with juveniles and families, attend interdisciplinary staffings, observe in Family Court, and have contact with other human service organizations and law enforcement agencies.

Interns typically work during regular DJJ office hours Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. However, after hours and weekend internship opportunities may also be available to accommodate an intern’s schedule and other commitments.

Qualifications

All students applying for an internship must meet the following qualifications:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Pass a thorough criminal background check through the S.C. State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and both the state and national sex offender registries.
- Have no record of child abuse, neglect, or threat of harm.

How to Apply

Candidates must be referred to DJJ by their instructor or department chair in writing as far in advance as possible of the semester they wish to work; lead time to apply and be processed for acceptance can be up to 6 weeks. The candidate will meet for an interview with the local DJJ manager where they will be working, provide a résumé, and complete a short volunteer application.

Once accepted, interns attend an orientation class, receive an identification card, and are assigned to a full time DJJ staff member. Following completion of the internship, students are evaluated by their assigned DJJ employee using forms provided by the student’s institution.

For more information on interning at DJJ institutions please contact:

Jennifer N. Wallace, Director of Volunteer Services
Office: (803) 896-9583 ♦ Email: jnwall@scdj.net

For more information on interning in the counties please contact your local DJJ County Office (full listing on next page) or:

R. Michael Smith, Director of Community Development
Office: (864) 260-4041 ♦ Email: msmith@scdj.net

For additional DJJ resources please visit our website: <http://www.state.sc.us/djj/>

DJJ County Office Directory

Abbeville County
864-366-5312

Darlington County
843-393-5641

Lee County
803-484-4550

Aiken County
803-641-7735

Dillon County
843-774-4147

Lexington County
803-359-5526

Allendale County
803-584-4751

Dorchester County
843-832-4265

Marion County
843-431-1110

Anderson County
864-260-4041

Fairfield County
803-712-6533

Marlboro County
843-479-2961

Barnwell County
803-259-7114

Florence County
843-665-3080

Newberry County
803-276-8243

Bamberg County
803-245-5184

Greenville County
864-467-5875

Oconee County
864-638-9537

Beaufort County
843-525-1351

Greenwood County
864-229-6648

Orangeburg County
803-533-6270

Berkeley County
843-761-8194

Georgetown County
843-546-8723

Pickens County
864-878-7560

Charleston County
843-740-1649

Hampton County
803-943-4296

Richland County
803-253-4050

Cherokee County
864-487-2564

Horry County
843-915-8969

Spartanburg County
864-562-4200

Chester County
803-377-8104

Jasper County
843-726-5666

Sumter County
803-778-2368

Chesterfield County
843-623-2378

Kershaw County
803-432-9171

Union County
864-429-1640

Clarendon County
803-435-8587

Lancaster County
803-285-9447

Williamsburg County
843-355-2772

Colleton County
843-549-1509

Laurens County
864-984-2518

York County
803-909-7500

Tri-Counties
(Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda)
864-445-8138

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is the state cabinet agency responsible for providing custodial care and rehabilitation for the state's children who are incarcerated, on probation or parole, or in community placement for a criminal or status offense. Our mission is to protect the public and reclaim juveniles through prevention, community services, education, and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.