

USP 186/187: Senior Sequence

Areas of Concentration (AOC) Definitions

NOTE: *The "Areas of Concentration" defined below are the "categories" we use to organize the internship placements. But these same categories serve us well as a way to organize the main thrust of your senior research projects. We encourage you to select a research topic that fits (complements) your internship placement. This way your service learning (internship) experience can help you make progress on your SRP (even if only indirectly). We use the categories below to organize students into working groups. We'll use the same categories to cluster your posters (story-boards showcasing your research) into meaningful group displays at USP's annual Urban Expo (in mid-March). When you fill out your research profile, we want you to select the AOC that most closely fits your SRP's area of investigation.*

ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN

Public and private sector internships in the field of architecture, urban design and historic preservation. Duties may include drafting, model making, facilities planning and design, and research. Opportunities in historic preservation include work with museums as well as community-based cultural heritage organizations.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Public and non-profit sector internships with agencies or organizations dedicated to promoting community and/or economic development. Duties may involve efforts to assist businesses, community groups, neighborhoods and networks improve economic opportunity, community well-being and empowerment. Project activities may include work/research on redevelopment plans, economic development strategies, community outreach, job creation, industry retention/attraction.

EDUCATION

Public and non-profit sector internships with schools or non-governmental organizations that do educational outreach. Duties may include the development and implementation of program evaluation studies, the creation of exhibits, student tutoring, assistance in classroom settings, work with parents and teachers.

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Public, private, and non-profit sector internships dealing with environmental issues. Duties may include regulatory agency research (e.g., analysis of violations and compliance data), conservation and energy planning, pollution prevention, environmental mitigation monitoring and evaluation, risk assessment, watershed planning, industry research in the area of environmental science and technology, and planning for ecologically sustainable development.

HEALTH

Public and non-profit sector internships dealing with health care research, services, and outreach. Duties may include preparation of an environmental health status report for the County of San Diego, empowering communities to achieve improved health status, research on sexually transmitted diseases in high risk areas, community outreach and program development.

HOUSING

Public and non-profit sector internships dealing with housing construction including efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing and expand home ownership among low income and disadvantaged groups. Interns in the field of housing may do work involving land use and site feasibility studies for affordable units. Other opportunities focus on regulations regarding smart growth (mixed use development), construction permits, housing density, etc.

SOCIAL SERVICES AND POLICY ANALYSIS

Public sector internships in the offices of senators, city council members, congressional representatives, and

others. Duties may include legislative policy research, preparations of verbal and written briefings relating to various municipal policy issues, and communication with constituents. Other types of policy analysis (conducted by organizations such as the Center for Policy Initiatives) examine livable wage issues, democratic workplaces, effective education, affordable health care, quality child care and secure retirement benefits. Internships are also available, or can be created, with legal firms, the courts and the police (e.g., employee rights organizations, public defenders).

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

Private sector internships in the fields of real estate development, finance and advertising. Duties may involve completing market analyses of retail, industrial and multi-family properties, as well as listing and selling of real estate. Interns may also conduct regional analysis on land use and help prepare reports.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Opportunities are available, or can be created, for students interested in infrastructure planning and development (e.g., transportation, airports, water systems, sewer lines, cyberinfrastructure including wireless communications hardware and communications links). Transportation and infrastructure internships may include crossborder work with organizations in Mexico.

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Public and private sector internships that involve administration, consulting, zoning review, and other activities in the field of urban and regional planning. Duties may include assistance in mapping land use, preparing databases and plans, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and research. Planning and planning-related internships may include crossborder work with organizations in Mexico.