

## Virtual Internships

Virtual internships are internships that are done online or remotely. According to [dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com) an internship is defined as “any official or formal program that provides practical experience for students in an occupation or profession”. They integrate classroom knowledge and theory learned with practical application in private or public organizations. Students are placed with an organization/company, and have a professor/supervisor that the student reports to. Students are in regular contact with the professor/supervisor via virtual methods such as video call, phone call, email and instant messenger.

### How are virtual internships beneficial to students?

Virtual internships allow students, without leaving the comfort of their home campus, to gain the skills that employers are looking for in today’s market, alongside their studies. Students can gain the educational/theoretical knowledge from their courses, and then apply this knowledge within a real-world setting throughout their internship. Virtual internships lay a solid background for the future and provide the opportunity to achieve their career aspirations from a cross cultural perspective. Virtual internships allow students to receive/gain the same benefits as the onsite internships from the comfort of their home.

### Why should students do a virtual internship over a traditional on-site internship?

- Virtual internships allow students to develop digital skills/internet literacy that are important for their future. Students completing virtual internships must be well organized and highly motivated. Students must have the ability to manage their own time and complete assignments without further assistance
- Virtual internships are an excellent resume booster in that they develop and demonstrate a diverse set of skills/experience which can be leveraged accordingly and are of high value to current/future employers.
- No travel required, so this saves costs and does not disturb existing educational and professional commitments.
- Students will make connections in major organizations and network
- Virtual internships allow students to build professional confidence
- Virtual internship students are not only exposed to real projects, but are likely to

- establish long-term employment relations with their mentors.
- Students will build professional references from around the globe
  - Students will learn how to communicate in a professional setting and gain extra skills
  - Students will enhance their familiarity with digital tools and tech-based work
  - The virtual internship could lead to additional/new job opportunities
  - Webster Athens will coordinate the offering of the virtual internship and serve as the link between the company and the student intern.
  - 180 internship hours along with 3 contact hours with the professor/supervisor via virtual methods such as video call, phone call, email and instant messenger for 3 credits over 8- week terms.

**The virtual internship courses offered cover the below areas of study:**

MNGT 4950: Retail Business Analysis Virtual Internship

MNGT 4950: Retail Business Social Media Promotion Virtual Internship

MDST 3150: Retail Business Social Media Promotion Virtual Internship

MNGT 4950: Tourism Operations Project Management Virtual Internship

MNGT 4950: B2B Research & Arrangements Virtual Internship

**Course Descriptions:**

**MNGT 4950: Retail Business Analysis Virtual Internship**

Students will participate in a business experience in the retail business analysis area. The industry setting will be the primary learning laboratory for students to explore and apply the knowledge and skills of their field of study and learn about the professional world. To further develop knowledge and competencies, students will explore concepts, apply analysis and reflect on their internship experience. The communication skills and interpersonal relations of the students will be enhanced through their participation in activities within the organization.

**MNGT 4950: Retail Business Social Media Promotion Virtual Internship**

Students will participate in a business experience in the retail business social media promotion area. The industry setting will be the primary learning laboratory for students to explore and apply the knowledge and skills of their field of study and learn about the professional world. To further develop knowledge and competencies, students will explore concepts, apply analysis and reflect on their internship experience. The communication skills and interpersonal relations of the students will be enhanced through their participation in activities within the organization.

**MDST 3150: Retail Business Social Media Promotion Virtual Internship**

Students will participate in a media professional industry field experience in the retail business social media promotion area. The industry setting will be the primary learning

laboratory for students to explore and apply the knowledge and skills of their field of study and learn about the professional world. To further develop knowledge and competencies, students will explore concepts, apply analysis and reflect on their internship experience. The communication skills and interpersonal relations of the students will be enhanced through their participation in activities within the organization.

**MNGT 4950: Tourism Operations Project Management Virtual Internship**

Students will participate in a tourism professional industry field virtual internship experience. The industry setting will be the primary learning laboratory for students to explore and apply the knowledge and skills of their field of study and learn about the professional world. To further develop knowledge and competencies, students will explore concepts, apply analysis and reflect on their internship experience. The communication skills and interpersonal relations of the students will be enhanced through their participation in activities within the organization.

**MNGT 4950: B2B Research & Arrangements Virtual Internship**

Students will participate in a B2B research experience. The industry setting will be the primary learning laboratory for students to explore and apply the knowledge and skills of their field of study and learn about the professional world. To further develop knowledge and competencies, students will explore concepts, apply analysis and reflect on their internship experience. The communication skills and interpersonal relations of the students will be enhanced through their participation in activities within the organization.

**Dates of Virtual Internship for Spring and Summer 2021:**

January 11 – March 5, 2021 (deadline to apply January 4, 2021)

March 8 – April 29, 2021 (deadline to apply March 1, 2021)

May 24 – July 16, 2021 (deadline to apply May 17, 2021)

June 22 – August 13, 2021 (deadline to apply June 15, 2021)

**Cost of Virtual Internship:** \$2,175 for 3 credit class

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