

# Internships provide career insight

By **Tonnie Dakin**

Of the Emerald

Internships can provide valuable experience for students while they earn credit or money for on-the-job training.

"Typically, an internship is an opportunity that an employer provides to an individual to learn about a particular type of work in return for a accomplishment of assignments," said Larry Smith, director of the Career Planning and Placement Service.

Both on and off-campus internships are available through the University. On-campus interns earn credit, while off-campus interns can earn either credit or money.

The Office of Student Development, 364 Oregon Hall, helps develop on-campus internships, collects job descriptions from faculty members looking for interns, and schedules interviews with faculty advisers from the student's department.

"It's a matter of developing a job and then finding a student to fill it," said Terry Woolley, who works in the office.

Once a student and a faculty member have decided on an internship, a contract is completed that specifies the job and course outline, she said.

All internships have structured course goals. Woolley said. These are based on the time spent on the job, the skills learned, the assignments completed and faculty evaluations, she said.

The number of credits that a

student receives varies depending on the type of internship, Woolley said. A few internships are available for freshmen and sophomores, but most are designed for upper-division students, she said.

The ideal time for students to engage in an internship is during or after the second half of their sophomore year because students are more apt to know what they want out of a career, Smith said.

"An internship gets to be part of the career-decision process, and it gets to be a real testing ground for students," he said.

A student enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences who is interested in an off-campus internship should go to the Career Planning and Placement Service, 244 Hedricks Hall, Smith said.

A student enrolled in one of the professional schools should go to the head of their department, he said.

To receive credit for an off-campus internship, the student must have the work approved by the student's academic department, Smith said. These interns also attend weekly class sessions in addition to working, he said.

"Internships, if they are for credit, are based not only on the work done, but on what is learned," Smith said.

Interns are expected to complete "fairly substantial projects," which are typically negotiated with the employer, he said.

"Internships provide an extremely useful and valuable experience for employers because

they have students sent to them who have been preselected to do the work," Smith said.

Patricia Cusick, the acting marketing coordinator at the Hult Center, agreed.

"The main reason we hire interns is because we realize what a wonderful resource it is hav-

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