

Internship listings for students

■ A Web site offers career-related opportunities for students in various University departments

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

To ease students' searches for internships, a new program has been created that will encourage students "to go out and get experience."

The program, called Participatory Learning Experiences, brings together most of the campus departments by emphasizing research projects as well as traditional internship opportunities. Established as part of the University's Process for Change, the program is based on a Career Center Web site.

The new Web site — uocareer.uoregon.edu/ple — is a consolidation of internships from 25 University departments that offer more than three dozen programs. The PLE program guarantees students a pass/no pass credit for their participation.

PLE director Don Van Houten, former dean of the College of Art and Sciences, said the Web site will make access to internships more convenient for students.

"We don't want to spend a lot of time spinning your wheels," he said.

The hopes of the members of the PLE advisory committee, which is

composed of 10 professors and directors, is that the difficulty of finding job experience will diminish.

Finding internships "can be a confusing process for students," said Beth Pfeiffer, Career Center assistant internship director. "This [database] will make it easy to get involved and make it a quality experience for students."

Internships or research opportunities "must be related to departmental educational objectives," in order to be listed as a PLE, according to the Web site.

"There's no excuse anymore," said Pam Cytrynbaum, internship coordinator for the School of Journalism and Communication. "Students must be good consumers of the information available [and] want to go out and get experience."

Individual PLE research projects are required to be closely supervised by a faculty member. A contract must also be signed by the student and supervisor that covers learning objectives, a position description and employer contact information.

"Students don't have to look all over any more," said Pfeiffer, who serves on the PLE advisory committee.

The PLE program is attracting the attention of departments that do not have any other type of internship system installed.

"The journalism school has al-

ways known that real-world experience is essential," Cytrynbaum said. "For a long time, other parts of the [University] didn't have the same sense of urgency."

Opportunities from most of the University's departments, including psychology, education, architecture and allied arts and political science, are already posted on the site. More departments will likely add to the on-line catalog as awareness increases. Web site coordinator Tina Haynes said.

"Right now, it's just a small sampling of what it's going to be," Haynes said.

The Web site database allows students to search for specific internships in a number of departments as well as in several different occupations. A description of the results is displayed along with contact information. "I strongly urge everyone to get an internship," Cytrynbaum said. "I'd scream out my window if I could to tell everyone how important it is to get some experience."

Fake ID

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Eyster said. "Almost like a prerequisite after graduating high school, students get an ID before even coming here."

Each of the related offenses carry fines through the local court system, but in some cases multiple agencies get involved to assess added charges.

For instance, if a fake driver's license is confiscated at a bar, it is then forwarded to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission [OLCC], which can issue a citation based on ORS 165.805, terming it a Class C misdemeanor. If you are so cited, the DMV has the power to suspend driving privileges up to one year.

The official charge, minor misrepresentation of age, has a mandatory \$265 fine attached, and can be expanded under the vehicle code [if the ID is a license] for an additional \$500. A second offense warrants an automatic \$500 fee.

"If you falsify a license or misuse someone else's you will be suspended from driving yourself," DMV Assistant Supervisor Bob Comstock said. "Oregon has some of the strictest enforcements on the books and we follow them very closely."

Doc's Pad Manager Matt Bjerke said bouncers at his bar seize an average of 20 false IDs per week,

many of which come from students who are only months away from turning 21.

"There are some really, really good IDs being used," Bjerke said. "But it's just not worth it, not worth the trouble they get in."

At Rennie's Landing, where a busy weekend turns up at least 10 illegal IDs a night, bouncers like Jon Green pride themselves on being particularly adept at sniffing out fake cards at the door.

"I'm very good at IDs," Green said.

His techniques include asking for separate, multiple pieces of identification if a presented card is "beat up enough," or looking for alteration clues on the dates and numbers. Also, many states have "secret" combinations of digits, like expiration dates that add up to a specified number.

Bars and restaurants are required to have on hand an OLCC booklet with detailed depictions of the license forms from all 50 states, updated annually.

Dan Geyer, bar manager at Rennie's, said the holograms many states are adding to their placards is helping to make falsifying IDs more difficult.

"Basically it's a big game," he said. "But I don't think people realize how ridiculous it is. Most of them only have a few months before they're 21. It's worth the wait."

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