



National Survey of College Internships

The National Survey of College Internships (NSCI) is a new initiative of the Center for Research on College-Workforce Transitions (CCWT) that will officially launch in the Fall of 2021. CCWT will annually collect detailed information about student experiences with college internships at participating colleges and universities, and provide detailed and customized technical reports and searchable, secure data visualization tools.

Background

CCWT at UW-Madison is launching a new National Survey of College Internships (NSCI) in response to the growing interest in internships and related forms of work-based learning (WBL), which are widely seen as “high-impact practices” (HIPs) that contribute to students’ academic, social and career success. However, no national studies on internships exist that focus on issues of access, program structure and student outcomes. In addition, few colleges or universities have the data infrastructure to closely track and understand their students’ experiences with internships, which is essential for supporting faculty, career services professionals, and campus leaderships’ data-based decisions about how to improve internships.

The need for data about student experiences with internships became even more important with the Covid-19 pandemic, as internships were cancelled or moved online, and students faced unprecedented disruptions to their academic and career goals. In addition, concerns about inequitable access to internships, particularly for low-income, first-generation and/or minoritized students, make understanding the obstacles to internship participation a critical issue as the nation attempts to address long-standing problems with income inequality, structural racism and workplace discrimination.

The NSCI Survey

The survey instrument used in the NSCI was developed as part of CCWT’s mixed-method, longitudinal study on college internships that began in early 2018. The core sections of the survey elicit information on: (1) student demographics, (2) structure of their internship (e.g., length, in-person or online), (3) internship supervision and mentoring, (4) internship tasks, (5) satisfaction with their internship, & (6) impact of the internship on students’ skills, career development and academic development. For students who have not taken an internship but had wanted to, there are also questions about the obstacles they experienced while seeking a position.

The data collected in the 58-item NSCI survey are based on a new framework for studying and evaluating college internships on the basis of their format, quality and commitment to equitable access. This framework is outlined in our [Internship Scorecard report](#) and will inform how we interpret your campuses’ data and report study findings. The survey has undergone two cycles of revision and psychometric testing, and more information is available on the CCWT website.

If you and your campus are interested in participating, please contact us at:

The Center for College-Workforce Transitions (CCWT) at WCER
608-265-2860 | ccwt@wcer.wisc.edu
ccwt.wceruw.org



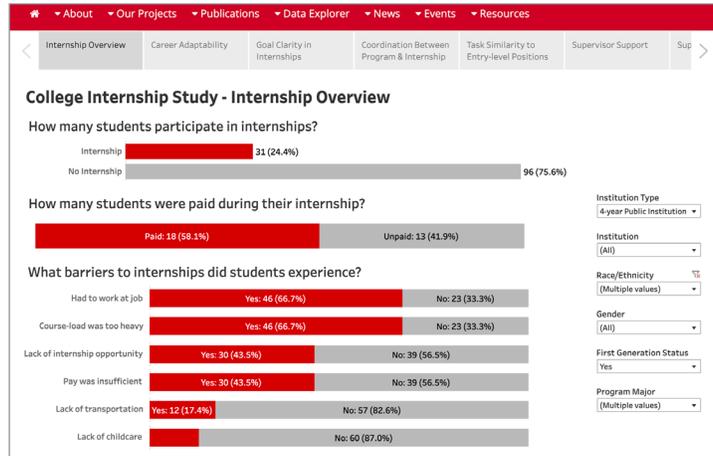
Wisconsin Center for
Education Research
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Why Should My College or University Participate in the NSCI?

The NSCI will provide your campus with high-quality, detailed data on your students' experiences with internships that can be used to assess overall participation in this HIP, establish a baseline for participation and program quality, to support data driven decision-making for program improvement, and to identify obstacles that are keeping your students from engaging in internships. The NSCI also follows rigorous sampling methodologies, uses a validated survey instrument, and involves customized service and data deliverables.

Each participating institution will receive two deliverables: (1) a customized summary report that includes summaries of students' survey responses, a brief analysis of the regional internship labor market, and recommendations for program improvement, and (2) a password-protected interactive data dashboard so that you can explore the data on your own (see the [College Internship Study Data Explorer](#) for an example).

With these fine-grained data on internships in hand, your college or university can be among the first in the nation to begin building a dataset on internships that can guide your planning and assessment decisions on these critical work-based learning experiences.



Example of the Internship Study Data Dashboard on CCWT's Website

Timing and Administration

Pricing for the NSCI is currently being updated in light of recent information regarding institutional policies and costs. We aim to have a final pricing structure (based on student enrollment) finalized ASAP and will be posting that on the CCWT website as soon as it is finalized.

We also anticipate capping participation in the first administration of the NSCI at approximately 120 institutions, with additional capacity available in coming years, so let us know if you're interested now! The NSCI will be administered each year thereafter every fall, with data reports and dashboards provided to participating institutions in early 2022, which will help inform campus decision-making just before the spring "internship season" as well as the next academic year.

What is the Center for Research on College-Workforce Transitions (CCWT)?

The Center for Research on College-Workforce Transitions (CCWT) is the nation's first Center for studying student experiences with the transition from college to the workforce in order to inform policies, programs, and practices that promote academic and career success for all learners. CCWT is dedicated to conducting and supporting applied research that amplifies students' voices and experiences related to college-workforce transitions.

For more information, please see ccwt.wceruw.org.



Wisconsin Center for
Education Research
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON