

Internship Application- Spring 2025

SES Urban Agriculture Program

Summary: Internships in the SES Urban Agriculture program are aimed at providing an entry level hands-on learning experience in agricultural production and food systems for LUC students. This is a 4- month long, unpaid Internship with a minimum commitment of 10 hours/week and accepted students have the option to enroll in ENVS 395 or ENVS 395 Capstone to receive 3 credit hours. Student Interns will develop skills and knowledge of aquaponics food production and maintenance, hydroponics systems, outdoor food production using Organic methods, mushroom cultivation, sales and distribution in local markets, data collection and analysis, pest management practices, plant health and soil fertility, and more. Interns will also have the opportunity to develop and implement an individual or group project that advances the goals of the Urban Agriculture program. Previous projects include native beekeeping, hydroponics experiments, food safety protocols, mushroom production, compost systems, pollinator services, plant fertilizers, market sales analysis, crop planning, and campus plant sales.

Internship Period: January-April, 2025 (Spring semester)

Hours: Approximately 10 hours/week

Scheduling: 2-3 days per week + team meeting, flexible scheduling options including weekend shifts, No work over Spring Break and Easter Break holiday periods.

Compensation: Unpaid. This is a highly diverse training experience in agricultural production. Interns who are successful in the program can be promoted into paid Team Leader positions.

Time Off- Two (2) excused absences are allowed during the Internship period which require providing advanced notice. Interns are not expected to work over Spring Break or Easter Break holiday periods.

ENVS 395/395 Capstone Internship: (Optional) 3 hour course credit includes bi-weekly reflections and final report. Interns must be admitted into the program prior to enrolling in the internship-for-credit. It is not mandatory to enroll in the Internship for credit. After being accepted into the program, you can inquire with your advisor about enrolling in an Internship section.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Develop expertise in systems management and operations for aquaponics, hydroponics, mushroom cultivation, farmers market sales, and outdoor crop production.
2. Define sustainability in the agriculture/food systems context and identify environmental issues and proposed solutions associated with the current food system.
3. Build experience in individual project leadership. Develop a sustainability related project in agriculture, research available published information, implement a project solution, analyze the results of the project, and issue a report summarizing what you learned.
4. Develop deeper knowledge of soil management practices to promote soil health. Identify plant deficiencies, analyze soil data metrics, and help implement practices such as cover cropping, crop planning, and compost systems.

5. Learn data collection and analysis processes using advanced technology.
6. Participate and develop a deeper understanding of the sales and distribution process involved in small-scale diverse agriculture including marketing and customer engagement.
7. Participate in a dynamic team environment, develop communication skills and experience with colleagues, and use creativity to help troubleshoot issues in each program area.

Position Duties and Responsibilities:

-Develop a group or individual project that addresses a specific area of personal interest and advances the mission and goals of the Urban Agriculture program. Interns enrolled in ENVS 395 will be required to submit written reflections and a final project for course completion.

-Assist in individual and team-related tasks to maintain program facilities and operations (Greenhouse Lab, Winthrop Garden, Farmers Market, Aquaponics systems) including but not limited to cleaning, harvest, seeding, pest control, composting, beekeeping, post-harvest cleanup, produce sales and distribution, and plant sale distribution. Interns will obtain a broad level of experience in all program and project areas.

-Assist in the harvest and distribution of produce following GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) food safety procedures. Represent Loyola University and the School of Environmental Sustainability at the LUC Farmers Market, engage and inform customers about our products and program.

-Attend weekly team meetings and provide reporting on project area of focus to reflect on learning outcomes.

Position Requirements:

-Candidate is a current LUC student and will be enrolled in the Spring 2025 semester. All undergraduate and Graduate LUC students are encouraged to apply. Both SES and non-SES majors are encouraged to apply.

-Physical requirements: Must be able to lift 30 lbs and work in different temperature and weather conditions in both inside and outside environments.

-Candidate is dependable, responsible, able to work independently and adapt to flexible schedule. Weekend hours may be required and work hours and schedules may change to allow for work in all program areas.

-Candidate must commit to the entire Internship period at minimum 10 hours/week.

Application Form:

Instructions: Fill out the contact info and answer the questions below. Save as a word doc or pdf and submit to Kevin Erickson, kerickson2@luc.edu.

Deadline: Please submit the application by **Monday, October 28th at 11:59pm**. Applicants who are selected for the interview process will be notified within one week.

1. Contact info:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Major:

Minor/Concentration (if applicable):

Year in school (Fr,So,Jr,Sr,Grad):

Current GPA:

- 2. Why are you interested in this Internship and what outcomes are you hoping to achieve through this experience?**

- 3. Do you have any experience (courses included) that are relevant to this position including gardening, outdoor work, or other food system work?**

- 4. Do you have any time constraints (clubs, sports, vacations, job, etc) that may conflict with this position's schedule requirements during the Internship period?**

- 5. Are you available to work on weekends? (Y/N)**