



University
of Vermont

College of
Arts and Sciences

College of Arts & Sciences Internship & Experiential Learning Program

5-Year Program Report

2019-2024

Program Team: Sophia Trigg and Kelly Smith | Associate Dean for Student Success: Paul Deslandes

What we do:

The CAS Internship Program is run by Sophia Trigg, CAS Internship & Experiential Learning Program Director, and Kelly Smith, CAS Internship & Experiential Learning Program Coordinator, with support and direction from Associate Dean for Student Success Paul Deslandes and Dean Bill Falls.

In an effort to interweave professional development into our students' liberal arts educations, our primary mission is to help students find internships and secure credit and funding for those opportunities.

Once a student secures an internship, we help them enroll in credit either through our general internship course open to all majors, or through their department. If the internship is during the summer, we provide funding opportunities that will help them accept an unpaid or under-paid internship offer.

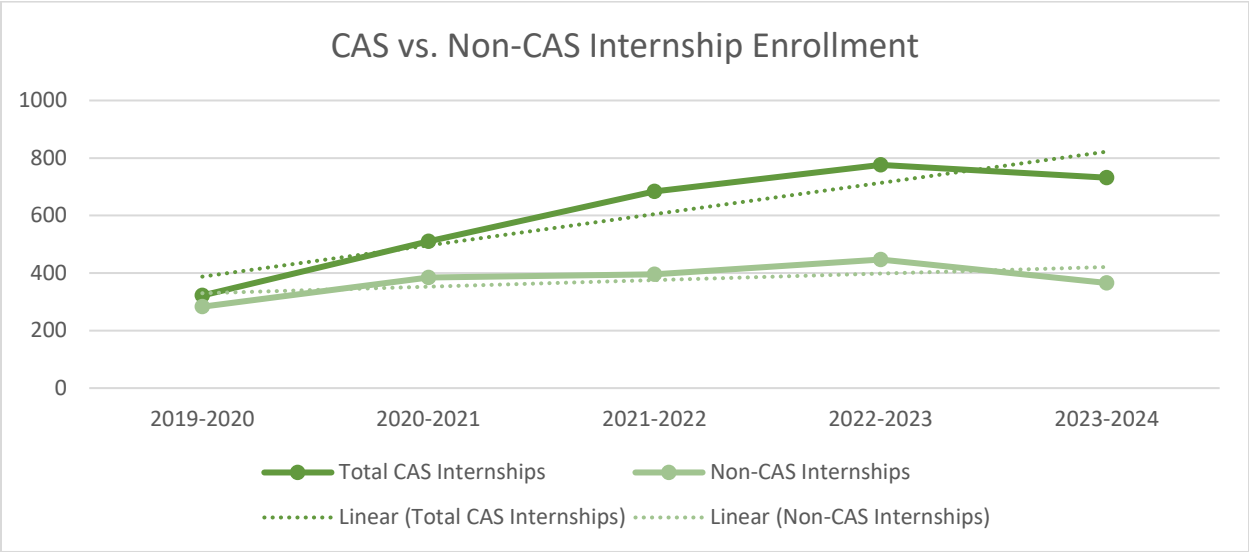
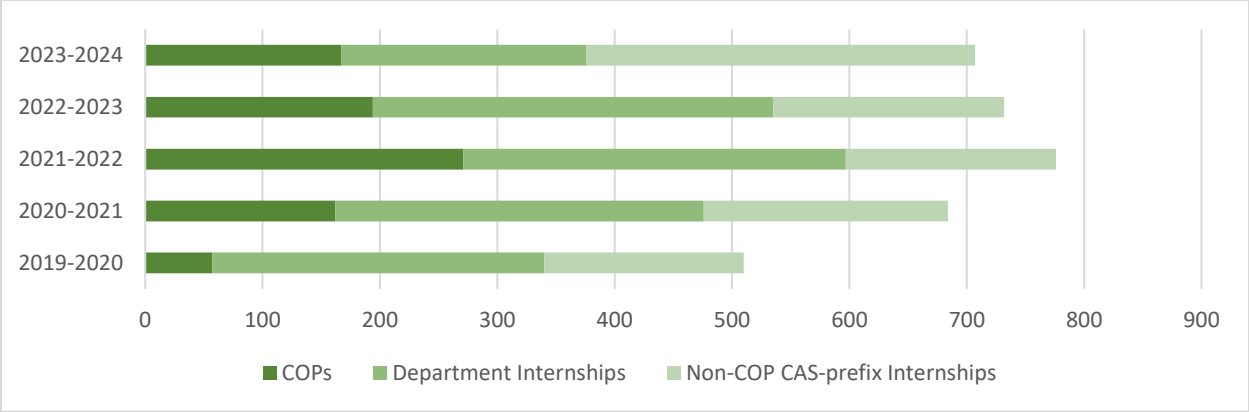
We also create and run specialty internship programs that are open to all majors such as the Communities of Practice, Semester for Impact, Global Career Accelerator, The Washington Center, Semester in the City in Boston, Arts in Action in New York, and others, detailed below.

Through these diverse programs and outreach efforts, we have expanded the reach and audience for internships within the college by providing opportunities for students at multiple stages of professional development and career-readiness.

Credit:

3,409 students enrolled in CAS internship credit from fall 2019 through summer 2024.

- 2,265 of those students enrolled in "AS" intern courses (66%)
- 851 of those students participated in the Communities of Practice (25%)
- 140 of those students went to Boston, D.C. or New York City for full-semester internship experiences (Semester in the City, The Washington Center, Arts in Action)

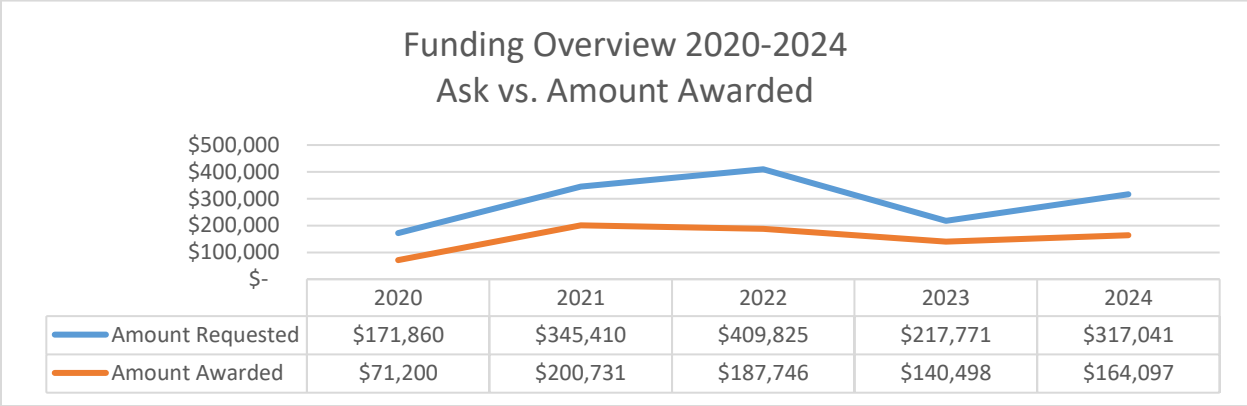
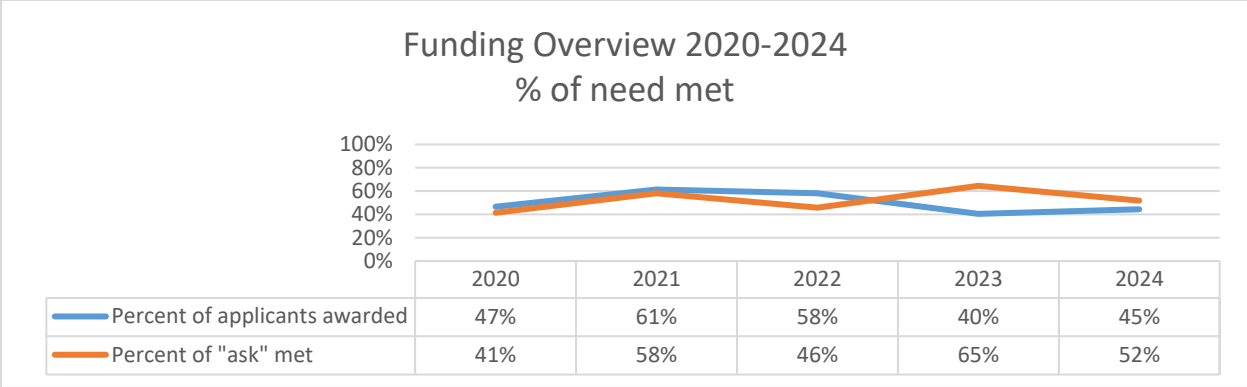


Funding:

\$764,272 has been awarded in summer funding to 265 students between summer 2020 and summer 2024 to help them cover living expenses while completing unpaid or underpaid internship opportunities.

- \$601,202 has been awarded from CAS Internship Scholarship funds.
- \$163,070 has been awarded by CAS departments participating in our CAS summer internship scholarship process.

The average award is \$2,769 per student.



Programs & Partnerships:

[Communities of Practice \(COPs\)](#) are cohort style, mentored internships directed by professionals working in or recently retired from their fields.

Communities of Practice have been run in the following areas:

- Communications & Social Media (2020-2022)
- Community Health Media (2020)
- Digital Media Production (2020)
- Sustainability, Energy & Transportation, Urban Planning (2020-2024)
- VT State Legislature (2020-2024)
- Local Democracy (2022-2024)
- Public Health (2022)
- Environmental Stewardship (2022-2024)
- Nonprofits & Social Change (2023-2024)
- Art & the Creative Economy (2023-2024)
- Student Legal Services (2024)

[CAS 2991 is our general internship course](#) that offers students credit for internships in any industry. This course is ideal for students in their sophomore, junior and senior years who have found an independent internship. Students enroll in 1 credit for every 40 hours they work at their internship. In the course,

students complete weekly journal reflections, professional development activities, resume work, informational interviews, and more.

[Arts in Action](#) is a semester-long socially engaged experience in New York City with a focus on community, art and activism. Students spend a semester interning with a community arts organization and gaining firsthand knowledge of the art world and arts in community. This program is for students that are interested in using the visual arts and the city of New York as a lens for exploring and understanding issues of inequality and the struggle for social justice.

The program consists of a 3-day-per-week internship, professional development work and an academic course, Art and Activism. Open to students of all majors. The program awards 15 credits.

This program is run through CAS and UVM Travel Study and debuted in Spring 2020. It was cancelled in Spring 2021 due to the COVID pandemic but ran again in Spring 2022 and Spring 2023. The next program will run Spring 2025 before transition to Fall semester timing from Fall 2026 on.

[The Washington Center \(TWC\)](#) is a semester-long academic internship program in Washington D.C. for students of any major. TWC offers placements in over [400 organizations](#) throughout D.C.

Students work 32 hours per week at an internship placement, take one evening course in the subject of their choice, and complete professional development workshops throughout the semester. UVM partners with The Washington Center to provide 15 UVM credits to students who participate in the program during the fall or spring semester and 12 UVM credits to students who participate during the summer.

[Semester in the City \(SITC\)](#) is a semester-long academic internship program run through the College for Social Innovation in Boston. SITC is open to all majors.

Students work 4 days per week at their internship site, take a Wednesday evening course focused on social entrepreneurship and reaching diverse populations, and develop professional skills on Fridays. UVM partners with Semester in the City to offer 15 credits to students in the program.

[Semester for Impact \(SFI\)](#) is a full-time, credit-bearing internship program educating and empowering the problem solvers of tomorrow. Open to all UVM students, the SFI program matches students with 30 hour/week internship in Vermont's social change sector and awards up to 15 UVM credits toward their degrees.

Enrolling 5 students in Fall 2023 and 2 students in Spring 2024, the SFI program at UVM had a solid start! We are hoping that this program will fill a gap in offerings by allowing a student to focus their entire semester on an internship while staying in Burlington. The program is still finding its focus area, but

initial student surveys indicate that the 1:1, high-touch format is incredibly valuable to their professional and personal development.

[Global Career Accelerator](#) (formerly **Global Tech Experience**) (**GCA**) is an equity-driven experiential learning program that enables undergraduate students from all backgrounds to gain authentic work experience and in-demand global skills through the completion of several micro-internships / projects and professional workshops.

The program is designed to give students an opportunity to gain work experience while building competency in intercultural communication and in-demand industry tools, as they work on the projects alongside peers from 50+ different countries in the world.

In its first semester (Spring 2024), GCA enrolled 58 students, about 50% from CAS and 50% from other colleges. It also enrolled more students of color than our other programs and also more in-state students. Interestingly GCA also enrolled more male students than female students. We look forward to monitoring these trends as the program settles in at UVM.