



NC STATE EXTENSION

# Advancing Communities through Education and Research

THINK AND DO

## 2025 Summer Internship Program

*Gain Real-World Experience and Build Your Career*

Imagine a career in which you can make a positive difference in the community every day. Imagine a career where you teach people, and your classroom is a farm, field, factory, forest, home, or community. We invite you to NC State Extension's Summer Internship Program, an experience that will prepare you for a challenging and rewarding career!

### Overview

In North Carolina, Extension professionals work in all 100 counties and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians. Nationwide, more than 15,000 Extension professionals are working to address society's needs. Numerous countries and international development programs need Extension professionals. All of this means that opportunities abound for students who pursue the Extension Education field.

In 2025, 40 internships are available across North Carolina. Interns will assist Extension Agents through programs such as Master Gardeners, pesticide training, diabetes cooking classes, and 4-H livestock projects. Extension internships offer a first-hand view of Extension careers.

### Objectives

Extension provides research-based information and education in local communities. The internship helps you to consider careers in agriculture, food systems, nutrition, youth development, community development, family and consumer sciences, natural resources, and environmental science. The internships are paid, and interns can expect to:

- Gain knowledge about Extension careers.
- Develop rich job experiences.
- Help deliver solutions to address local needs.

### Academic Majors Sought

We are seeking students whose academic background is relevant to Extension, especially agronomy; animal science; horticultural science; youth development; nutrition; food science; family and consumer sciences; agricultural and resource economics; communications; biological and agricultural engineering; agricultural and Extension education; and others.



### Community-Based Education

Extension educators primarily focus on agriculture and food, health and nutrition, and 4-H youth development programs.



### Serving People

Extension careers are for people with a passion for serving people. Using research-based information, Extension professionals teach families, farmers, youth, and communities.

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# Chart Your Course

NC State Extension Internships Help Bridge College and Career



## General Job Description

An Extension summer intern works with Extension experts to coordinate and implement hands-on, educational programs. Interns assist in preparations for group meetings and activities by gathering information, assembling materials, contacting participants, and engaging donors. Interns teach individuals and groups.

Job shadowing and mentoring are important parts of the internship experience. Interns gain knowledge of the history, purpose and mission of North Carolina Cooperative Extension. In some cases, the intern may develop a novel program under the guidance of an Extension professional. This program may make substantial contributions to the overall county Extension program. Interns complete time reports and other program documentation as appropriate.

Interns are compensated \$12 per hour and work 40 hours per week for 10 weeks. Academic credit is available for students who satisfy all requirements through NC State's Agricultural and Extension Education academic program for AEE 423 – Practicum in Agricultural Extension/Industry (8 credit hours). Other departments may also provide credit; check with your academic advisor.

## 2025 Locations

The following counties will host interns:

- **Northeast:** Beaufort, Chowan, Dare, Halifax, Nash, and Washington
- **Southeast:** Bladen, Columbus, Duplin, Jones, and Wilson
- **South Central:** Catawba, Cabarrus, Cumberland, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Rowan, Stanly, and Union
- **North Central:** Alleghany, Caswell, Chatham, Davie, Orange, Rockingham, Surry, and Vance
- **West:** Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Haywood, Henderson, Rutherford, and Transylvania

*Note:* Washington and Duplin will each host two interns. Extension and research experts at North Carolina A&T State University will host two interns as part of the N.C. Plant Sciences Initiative (PSI).

## Qualifications

- Student applicants must be currently enrolled in (or accepted for) a four-year accredited college or university.
- Students should be in a course of study relevant to Extension work.
- Students must have an undergraduate cumulative GPA of 2.5 based on a 4.0 scale at the time of application (exceptions will be considered with substantial justification), and graduate students are eligible.
- Interns must be eligible to work in the United States.
- Must have strong oral and written communications skills, work effectively, and build relationships.
- Must have good organization and planning skills based on past work or academic experiences.
- Must analyze and synthesize information for problem solving.
- Must have a personal commitment to working with diverse clientele and colleagues.

## Timeline

- February 21 – Applications due
- February 26 to March 26 – County Extension Centers may interview applicants
- April 1 – Applicants informed of internship placements
- April 26 – Required Internship Orientation
- May 14 – Internship Start Date
- July 21 – Extension Internship Showcase
- July 25 – Internship End Date

## Extension/PSI Internships

Of these 40 internships, 10 will collaborate with the PSI. These 10 internships are funded by the Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU) program of United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA)

Award Number  
2024-68018-43454.



## How to Apply

Applicants must submit the following by February 21:

- A resume that includes their major and current GPA.
- Two references with contact information.
- Latest college or university transcript (unofficial transcripts are acceptable).
- A list of no more than three counties to which the applicant is applying.

NC State students apply in ePack. The job Title is "NC Cooperative Extension Summer Internship," and the ID number is 216888. Students from other institutions should email complete application materials in pdf format to Ms. Desiree Mallon, [ddmallon@ncsu.edu](mailto:ddmallon@ncsu.edu).

NC State University promotes equal opportunity and prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon one's age, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, and veteran status.

## Learn More

- NC State Extension Summer Internship Program [www.ces.ncsu.edu/internships/](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/internships/)
- NC State Extension [www.ces.ncsu.edu/](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/)
- Agricultural and Human Sciences [cals.ncsu.edu/agricultural-and-human-sciences/](http://cals.ncsu.edu/agricultural-and-human-sciences/)
- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences [cals.ncsu.edu/](http://cals.ncsu.edu/)

## Contact

Dr. Joseph L. Donaldson, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Department of Agricultural and Human Sciences, coordinates the Extension Summer Internship Program.

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*Joseph L. Donaldson, Ph.D.  
January 2025*