

Introducing the Communication Alumni Council Internship Scholarship Program!

The **Communication Alumni Council Internship Scholarship Program** was established in 2024 by the UCSB Department of Communication Alumni Council. The mission of the UCSB Department of Communication Alumni Council is to support the professional development and lifelong engagement of students and alumni, and the success and visibility of the department at large. More info about the Alumni Council can be found here:

<https://www.comm.ucsb.edu/council>

The Communication Alumni Council Internship Scholarship Program aims to expand access to experiential learning and professional development for Communication majors by providing financial support. Recognizing that unpaid internships can create significant barriers—especially for students facing financial challenges—the program is designed to reduce these obstacles for undergraduate Communication students pursuing unpaid internships with non-profit organizations. The number of scholarships awarded may vary each year (each scholarship is typically \$2,500). Our aim is to foster students' career development and professional readiness while strengthening the Department's partnerships with the community.

Program Goals

1. **Provide Financial Support:** Offer scholarships to help students complete unpaid internships
 2. **Promote Equity:** Support students facing systemic barriers, such as financial need or limited networks
 3. **Enable Professional Development:** Equip students with real-world experience to compete in the job market
 4. **Strengthen Community:** Build partnerships with non-profit organizations
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Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for the program, applicants must:

1. Be a **full-time Communication major** currently enrolled at the university.
2. Secure or be in the process of securing an **unpaid internship** for the spring quarter at a non-profit organization, government agency, or other non-profit-focused entity. Unpaid internships at for-profit companies or internships receiving any form of payment are not eligible. While an official offer is required to receive the scholarship, it is not necessary to apply for the scholarship.
3. Be available to commit to a **minimum of 100 hours** over the course of the internship (e.g., ~10 hours per week for 10 weeks).

4. Demonstrate **financial need** and articulate how the scholarship would impact their ability to pursue the internship.
 5. Submit the application materials by the deadline.
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Application Process

Applications are accepted through a Google Form during the Winter quarter, with the deadline typically around mid-February. The application link and exact due dates will be announced at the start of Winter quarter.

Required Materials:

1. **Application Form Responses:** Provide detailed answers to questions covering the following topics:
 - A description of the organization and the responsibilities of your prospective internship position
 - Your learning goals related to your Communication education and career aspirations
 - How the scholarship will help you overcome financial or logistical barriers
 - Your service and contributions to the Department, campus, or community
2. **Resume (upload via the application form):** Highlight relevant academic, work, or extracurricular experiences.
3. **Unofficial Transcript (upload via the application form):** No minimum GPA is required. We seek students showing effort, growth, and resilience.
4. **Internship Offer Letter (upload via the application form):** If you have not yet received an official offer, please upload proof of your job application by the application deadline. Once the official offer is received, it must be emailed to comm-internship@ucsb.edu. An official offer letter is required to finalize scholarship eligibility.

Learning Goals Contract: *If selected as a scholarship recipient*, you and your internship supervisor will be required to sign a learning goals document outlining expectations and objectives for the internship.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed holistically by the Department of Communication's Internship Director and the Communication Alumni Council Internship Scholarship Committee. Selection will be based on:

- Clearly defined learning objectives/goals related to Communication
- Alignment of the internship with the applicant's career goals

- Demonstrated financial need and the impact of the scholarship
- Service and contributions to the university or community
- Overall academic progress, effort, and potential

Several top candidates will be invited for interviews, with financial need verified. Final decisions will be made by the committee and announced by mid-March.

Post-Internship Requirements

Scholarship recipients must complete the following:

1. **Reflection Paper:** Submit a 3-page summary of your internship experience.
 2. **Media Contribution:** Create a short video or reel showcasing your internship experience to be shared on the Department's and/or Alumni Council's social media channels
 3. **(Optional) Community Engagement:** You may be invited to participate in an Alumni Council-sponsored event to share insights about the internship.
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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What types of internships qualify?

Only unpaid internships at non-profit organizations, government agencies, or similar entities qualify. Paid internships at non-profit organizations or unpaid internships at for-profit organizations are not eligible.

Can I apply if my internship isn't confirmed yet?

Yes. Include details of the prospective internship in your application. Once you have been offered a position, submit your offer letter to comm-internship@ucsb.edu.

Are remote internships eligible?

Yes, remote internships qualify if they meet the time and organizational criteria.

How will applications be evaluated?

Applications will be assessed on learning goals, professional alignment, financial need, service, and academic progress.

Can I reapply if I wasn't selected in the past?

Yes. Applicants are welcome to apply for subsequent scholarship cycles.

How will the scholarship affect my financial aid or taxes?

Scholarship awards may impact financial aid packages. Recipients are responsible for understanding the tax implications of their award.