

## Quick facts about **INTERNSHIPS**

### What is special about Internships?

Many internships are designed to be full-time experiences for a student during a term. However, the student only earns 1 to 5 academic credits for the experience. The university Registrar may classify these courses as full-time, due to the robust nature of an academic or co-curricular experience. This is most evident in cooperative employment situations, including internships.

A non-exhaustive list of courses that afford students full time status while enrolled less than half time follows: PKG 493, MUS 493, ENG 393, MSC 293, MGT 293, ZOL 496, and ZOL 498.

However, just because the university Registrar classifies these courses as full-time equivalents does not mean that federal financial aid follows the same rules.

### How is financial aid affected?

Federal regulations require that undergraduate students must be enrolled for at least 6 credits to be eligible for disbursement of federal Stafford Loans and Parent PLUS Loans (Sections 682.200(b) and 685.102(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended). Regulations do not make any exception for students afforded an enrollment equivalency due to other institutionally-approved activities.

Undergraduate students must be enrolled in at least 6 credits to receive any federal student or parent loans.

### What should students know?

Undergraduate students enrolled less than half time will not be allowed to receive disbursements of federal loans. A student enrolled in one of these courses may enroll concurrently in other courses in order to attain half time status and loan disbursement eligibility if they need the loan funds to meet expenses.

If additional enrollments are not practical, then our office will work with the student to pursue a private educational loan. The student should contact the Office of Financial Aid to discuss alternative funding.

Students should also note that although the enrollment equivalency benefit does not allow disbursement of federal loans, it does permit outstanding student loans to remain in deferment status. The equivalency benefit also allows the student to receive other University services requiring full time enrollment.