

APSC 490X: Senior Food Systems Practicum: Food+ Policy Internship



Course Description:

The Senior Food Systems Practicum with Purple Mai'a's Hawai'i Food+ Policy Internship is unique as it is mandatory to attend for Spring semester students, and has a fixed set of learning objectives to align with the requirements for a UHWO's course learning objectives. Each student Food System Advocate will be assigned to a team by the Program Director, Kelsey Amos, and will work within their team under the supervision and guidance of the team's Lead Advocate. Roles and responsibilities will be fixed for the duration of the internship and will be assigned based on the students skills and working strengths. Key goals of the practicum include: development of professional working skills and contacts, facilitating the work of the organization, developing an understanding and critically evaluating the goals, objectives, and strategies used by the organization to advance food systems change, and achieving a specific set of student learning objectives defined by Dr. Miles, and developing critical reading, writing, and oral communication skills relevant to profession-level work in the food system.

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of a range of political and ethical positions as it relates to food, agriculture, and the environment (ILO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; DLO 1, 2, 5; GELO 1, 4, 5, 8).
2. Demonstrate an ability to read, write, think critically, and discuss a range of political and ethical positions as they relate to food, agriculture, and the environment (ILO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; DLO 1, 2, 5; GELO 1, 4, 5).
3. Understand the social, economic, and political obstacles and opportunities to advance more sustainable community food systems (ILO 1, 3, 4; DLO 1, 2, 5; GELO 1, 4, 5, 8).
4. Demonstrate the fundamentals of academic writing as it applies to the study of sustainable community food systems (ILO 1, 2, 3, 4; DLO 1, 2, 5; GELO 1, 4, 5, 8).

Hawai'i Food+ Policy Learning Objectives:

1. Learn how to track a state bill;
2. Learn how a bill moves through the state legislative process;
3. Learn to write and submit official testimony/oral testimony;
4. Understand legislative strategy and power mapping;
5. Develop communication strategies and media engagement;
6. Coordinate community outreach/education events
7. Attend meetings with lawmakers to understand how, when, and why decisions are made

Core Requirements for the Senior Practicum:

1. Students must complete at least **160 hours** of supervised experience with a minimum of **120 hours spent at the practicum site**.
2. Students must **complete regular journal entries** about the practicum experience. The journal entries must include: a log of hours, summary of tasks completed, reactions to tasks and photographs.
3. Students must complete a **mid-term and final paper related to the senior practicum**. The content and length of this paper are to be determined by the faculty (see Laulima Assignments).
4. Students must give a **final oral presentation** on their final paper and practicum experience.
5. Students must provide the host organization/enterprise with a **host evaluation form** (provided by the instructor) and **review the completed form with the host and the instructor** at the end of the term.
6. A **written and in-person review** (with the instructor) **of the student's personal learning objectives** set at the beginning of the term, and discussion of how well the student was able to reach the objectives.