

# POVERTY, INEQUALITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE MINOR

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY and THE BLUM CENTER ON POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND DEMOCRACY

## STUDENT FAQ

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## OVERVIEW OF CORE MINOR COMPONENTS

### What are the core requirements of this minor?

The Minor in Poverty, Inequality, and Social Justice is offered by the Department of History and is interdisciplinary in scope. It is affiliated with the UCSB Blum Center on Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy. Students pursuing this minor must complete:

- *Hist 74 - Poverty, Inequality and Social Justice in Historical and Global Context (lower-division);*
- *3 upper-division electives (from a list of eligible electives);*
- *An internship (and associated internship course); and a*
- *A capstone seminar*

For more detail on these requirements, please consult the Minor requirement sheet.

### How does this minor stand out from others available at UCSB?

- Many students have an interest in social justice and inequality but are not sure which courses to take, or how to gain work experience in this field. This Minor enables students to develop an area of focus within their broader academic program through structured coursework, a targeted internship, and a capstone seminar with a signature project.
- As an illustration, let's say you would like to develop an area of expertise in housing insecurity. You could select electives that provide you with research questions and subject matter knowledge about issues related to poverty, inequality, and housing; then intern for an organization focused on houselessness and homelessness; and ultimately focus your capstone project on a specific issue or question related to housing insecurity (one that jumped out in your courses or during your internship) in order to drill deeper and refine your understanding of that issue.
- Overall, this minor provides an opportunity to pursue targeted scholarship, work and research experience in a specific thematic area, which you can further explore in graduate school or the job market.



**What requirements of the minor are time-sensitive and can only be taken at particular points during the year?**

There are two time-sensitive components of the Minor:

- 1) *Hist 74 - Poverty, Inequality and Social Justice in Historical and Global Context*: is the gateway course that students must take before completing the internship or capstone course components of this Minor. Note - students can take HIST 74 and pursue their internship during the same quarter, provided they have secured approval for the internship in advance. *Hist 74 is currently only offered in Fall quarter.*
- 2) *Hist 174Q - Capstone Seminar*: students are encouraged to take this Seminar after their internship so they can reflect on their entire work/learning experience, however they can take this course simultaneously with the internship. *This capstone course is currently only offered in Spring quarter.*

For more information on these requirements, please consult the Minor requirement sheet.

For more information on the required courses, please consult the general catalog.

**Can I complete this minor in one year?**

- It is possible to complete the minor in one year, but this will depend on the student's ability to complete all core minor requirements in sequence, including Hist 74 (only offered in Fall quarter), the internship, and Capstone Seminar (only offered in Spring quarter).
- Students can contact Joanne Nowak - Minor Internship Coordinator or Corey Carpenter - Undergraduate Advisor for the History Department for guidance.

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS****Can one course count for credit toward multiple minors?**

- Students can have lower division courses overlap between minors (only the gateway course (Hist 74) is a lower division course in this minor). However, only 5 units of upper division electives can overlap between two minors. All required electives for this minor are upper division.

**Can I take an upper division elective in my home department and have it count for both my major and the minor?**

- The three upper division electives required for this minor must be from outside students' major.
- Students can have 5 units of upper division overlap between electives for their major (so long as the elective is outside their major), and the electives required for the Minor in Poverty, Inequality, and Social Justice.



### **If I've already taken a course that's on the list of approved minor electives, can it count towards the minor?**

- Students who have already taken a course on the list of approved electives may be able to have it count towards the minor.
- To pursue this request, please complete these two steps concurrently: 1) contact the Minor Internship Coordinator and CC the Undergraduate Advisor for the History Department to briefly describe the course you would like to have included; and 2) fill out the History Department Course Substitution Petition online form. After reviewing the form, the History Department will be in touch to confirm whether your proposed course is an eligible elective for consideration in the minor.

### **Can History/History of Public Policy and Law majors pursue this minor?**

- Currently, history/history of public policy and law majors cannot add this minor. However, we are working towards receiving approval by Spring 2020. History students are encouraged to check in with the Blum Center for updates on this situation throughout 2019/20.

### **Are the internship course and capstone seminar letter grade courses or pass/no-pass?**

- The capstone seminar will be a letter grade course.
- The internship course (Hist 196SJ) is a letter grade course. Students taking an equivalent internship course will need approval from the History Department.

## INTERNSHIP

### **How do I find an internship?**

Students can fulfill the minor's internship requirement through one of three pathways:

- Obtain an internship by drawing on the Blum Center's list of eligible internship providers (\*Note - students are not guaranteed an internship from this list, but rather can use this list as a starting point for organizations to consider contacting). It is the students' responsibility to contact their organization of interest and inquire about an internship. Please visit the Blum Center website and click on the Student Internship Guide for guidance on contacting a potential internship provider. The Minor Internship Coordinator is also available to assist students with any questions they have in finding an internship.
- Complete an existing UC internship program (e.g. UCDC, UCEAP, UC Sacramento), which include an opportunity to contribute to organizations addressing issues of poverty, inequality, and social justice. Approval from the History Department is required prior to starting the internship in order to receive academic credit toward the minor.
- Obtain an internship through your own efforts/networks. Advance approval from the History Department will be required prior to starting the internship in order to receive academic credit toward the minor.



**What types of internships can be pursued/are available with this minor?**

- The Blum Center's list of eligible internship providers lists organizations ranging from non-profits to on-campus employers working to address poverty, inequality, and social justice in its many forms, e.g. housing insecurity, migrant rights, public health, and environmental justice/conservation.
- Students who propose their own internships must ensure their job duties fall within (at least) one of these categories: policy analysis, advocacy, direct social provision, community action, and/or organizing, and contribute to efforts to address poverty, inequality, and social justice.

**How long should internships last?**

- The internship is required to last for at least one quarter (ten weeks in the academic year, six weeks over the summer). Students are welcome to remain at their internship site for a longer period of time, however they will only receive academic credit for the first quarter.

**How many hours/weeks should internships be?**

- Internships must involve a minimum of 12 hrs/week of work over 10 weeks (a quarter), and 20 hrs/week over six weeks in the summer. This time also includes coursework/assignments associated with students' associated internship course.
- During the academic year, the University recommends that students do not exceed working more than 30 hrs/week. During the summer there are no such restrictions (i.e. students can work up to 40 hrs/week).

**Do the internships need to be paid or unpaid?**

- Internships can be either paid or unpaid. Students who pursue a paid internship will need work authorization documentation. Students with questions about their work authorization status are encouraged to contact *Maddie Foster with UCSB Career Services* ([mwfoster@ucsb.edu](mailto:mwfoster@ucsb.edu)) for additional guidance.
- You can receive academic credit, and pursue a paid internship, at the same time.

**Is there any funding available to financially support students who participate in an unpaid internship through this minor?**

- The Blum Center does not currently have financial support for students undertaking unpaid internships. However, we encourage students to consider applying to the Career Services Internship Scholarship Program.

**Are international students eligible to participate in internships?**

- International students' eligibility to participate in internships associated with academic minors will vary based on visa status and associated requirements. Students must consult the Office of International Students & Scholars prior to securing/starting any internship. Please contact *Erik Williams* ([erikwilliams@ucsb.edu](mailto:erikwilliams@ucsb.edu)) with the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) for guidance. For general reference, please consult these FAQs from OISS.



**Are undocumented students eligible to participate in internships?**

- Eligibility to participate in paid vs. unpaid internships will vary based on work authorization status and method of payment. For additional guidance related to employment, please consult with *Maddie Foster with Career Services* ([mwfoster@ucsb.edu](mailto:mwfoster@ucsb.edu)).

**NEXT STEPS FOR THE MINOR & THE BLUM CENTER****If I'm interested in learning more, or formally taking on the minor, what's the next step?**

- If you would like to learn more about the minor in general, please contact the *Minor Internship Coordinator, Joanne Nowak*, to make an appointment.
- If you are ready to pursue the minor, contact the *Undergraduate Advisor for the History Department, Corey Carpenter*, to make an appointment to declare your intent to pursue the minor.
- If you are ready to start planning your internship, fill out the *Student Internship Preparation Form* at least six weeks ahead of your planned internship start date. Once you've filled out that form, the Minor Internship Coordinator will set up a follow-up meeting to go over next steps.

**I'm not sure I can complete the Minor, but I'm still interested in the Blum Center. What are my options?**

- For more information about how to get involved with the Blum Center, please visit our **website: [www.blumcenter.ucsb.edu](http://www.blumcenter.ucsb.edu)** or contact the Blum Center Academic Coordinator, Joanne Nowak.

**CONTACT US!**

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