

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TWELVE MONTH DPS INTERNSHIP CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ALBERTA

What is the DPS internship experience?

The internship experience is twelve months of full-time field training during which time the DPS intern works closely with the pastor, congregational boards and various age groups within the parish. The intern's efforts are focused in those areas in which he/she has talent and training, such as education, youth, and music.

What does CUCA hope will happen during the DPS internship?

Hopefully, both the congregation and the student will be of mutual benefit to one another. The congregation will benefit as it receives additional staff support in critical areas of its ministry and the intern will benefit as he/she: (1) attempts to clarify his/her vocational intent; (2) experiences first hand the workings of a congregation; (3) demonstrates his/her potential for DPS ministry; and (4) develops an effective style of working with Christ's people.

What is the DPS intern trained to do?

Each intern has unique abilities and interests which he/she will bring to your congregation. There is a core of skills in which they are to have at least a minimal degree of competence. This includes the intern's ability to be able to assess congregational education needs, help in the selection of education curriculum, recruit and train teaching personnel, lead a Bible class, and assist congregational boards to function effectively. In addition, most interns are able to work effectively with young people, train youth counselors, plan retreats, and direct a youth program.

What kinds of experience should the DPS intern have?

There are two basic kinds of experience that an intern should have: the first is to work with all age groups in the congregation as an educator, a teacher of the faith. Secondly, the intern should have the opportunity to experience the joys and frustrations of leadership and administration responsibilities (both in attempting to maintain and improve current programs, and in developing new ministry activities).

How much responsibility should the DPS intern have?

It is important to remember that the intern is still a student and as such may not fully realize how much responsibility he/she can handle. Initially, a gradual involvement with minor congregational responsibilities is suggested (for example, asking the student to lead a major teacher training program in the first month would not be advised) As the intern experiences success and satisfaction, it is expected that he/she will be able to assume more and more responsibility.

What kind of a congregation can have a DPS intern?

Congregations that are assigned an intern have a pastor who is willing to: (a) enter into a significant relationship with the intern; (b) make himself available for mutual planning, sharing, and problem solving, (c) exercise patience and understanding regarding his level of expectations; (d) share the congregational ministry as the intern develops competence; and (e) regularly contribute to the edification of the team through mutual prayers, study, and sharing. In addition, the congregation is willing to: (a) support the

educational and youth ministries of the parish; (b) develop board structures that can be supportive of the need to maintain, improve, and develop new ministry program; and (c) financially support the intern program.

When do DPS internships typically begin?

The recommended starting time for a DPS internship is June or July after students have completed their coursework and graduated. This will allow students to settle into the congregation, take part in summer ministry initiatives, and be ready for the fall programming.

Does the congregation have a voice in who is assigned as their DPS intern?

Yes, you do. If you are interested in a DPS intern, the application form will ask you questions that will help to specify the kind of person that best fits with the parish and full-time staff. A site identification visit is then made by the Director of Church Work Programs to refine these needs and preferences. On the basis of this first hand information an intern is assigned. Interviewing of potential interns by the congregation is not permitted.

Is there any orientation prior to the start of the DPS internship?

Yes, there is. The student is prepared for internship through various orientation meetings and coursework. In addition, the congregational supervisor comes to campus for a one day “DPS Internship Orientation Conference” (a cost covered by the congregation).

How is the DPS intern supervised?

Two kinds of supervision take place. On-site supervision of the intern must be done by the congregational pastor (perhaps in conjunction with a congregational DPS). University supervision happens two times a year (near the beginning and near the end of the internship) and is done by a member of the Concordia faculty or and adjunct faculty member.

Can an intern stay in the congregation after the DPS internship is over?

Yes. A majority of interns are placed in the congregation where they did their internship. This is possible because the internship is the last experience that qualifies an individual for certification and placement within Lutheran Church – Canada.

How can our congregation get more information about an intern or apply for an intern?

For more information please contact

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1-(866)-479-5200 x 348

For a DPS intern application form please contact your District President’s Office.

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