

Quick Tips for Identifying and Securing Praxis Field Placements

Independent Study and Seminar Courses

If you have an idea about what you want to learn but don't have a particular organization in mind, here are some steps you can take:

Talk to friends, professors, Career and Civic Engagement Center staff members, and Deans about your interests and learning goals. Through these conversations, gather ideas about the types of organizations and the names of specific organizations that could provide relevant hands-on experience related to those goals.

Civic Engagement maintains a Non-Profit Volunteer Opportunities blog that lists organizations in the areas of Health, Art, Education, Economic Justice, Environmental, Transnational (includes International Affairs, Refugee and Immigrant Affairs and International Development) and Activism/Organizing. Many of the organizations listed have hosted other BMC student interns or volunteers.

<https://activism.blogs.brynmawr.edu/>

Schedule an appointment with a Career Counselor in the Career and Civic Engagement Center or attend Drop-in hours with the Career Peers. Career Services has access to wealth of databases and can assist you in maximizing your use of Handshake for such information. Additionally, they can help you review and revise your resume, develop a letter of interest, and prepare for an interview.

<https://www.brynmawr.edu/career-civic/career-planning/appointments>

Once you have a list of possibilities, research those organizations online. See if their websites have links to Internship or Volunteer Opportunities. Sometimes this information is “hidden” and is posted under the heading Employment Opportunities. Some organizations list summer internship programs but don’t list academic year opportunities. That doesn’t mean that they won’t host an academic year intern; however, you will have to identify someone at the organization to talk to about this. (You could start in the HR department or in the department you are interested in working with.)

Before talking with potential Field Site Supervisors or even contacting the organization, you should begin to formulate some ideas about what the focus of your Praxis course might be.

- What do you want to learn through your involvement there?
- What is it about the organization that leads you to want to do your fieldwork there?
- What do you have to offer the organization?

- You should also be clear about the nature of a Praxis Independent Study course fieldwork. It is only for one semester (about 12 weeks long), it consists of 8-10 hours per week, and it is for academic credit.