

**Internship in Biology - BIOL 4360 - 3 credit**  
**Department of Natural Sciences**  
**Texas A&M University – San Antonio**  
**Fall 2025**

**Instructor: Davida Smyth**  
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**Course Description:**

**4360. Internship in Biology. 3(3-0)**

Internship in Biology is a course aimed at providing professional working experience in the field of biology. The sites at which students will be interns will be local and may be affiliated with the government, military, or private foundations. The student will be required to be a model employee and an exemplary ambassador of Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students will be supervised by a site manager and by a faculty member. Students will be evaluated based on their work performance and a reflection paper describing their experience. Prerequisites: BIOL 1306 BIOL 1106, BIOL 1307, BIOL 1107 This course will satisfy the High Impact Practice of Experiential Learning.

**Expectations of Student**

- **Spend a minimum of 10 hours, but no more than 20 hours per week**, between 8/26/2025 and 12/6/2025 working on events and activities related to the Justice Challenge.
  - The exact schedule of days and hours to be worked as well as the duties and experiences gained will be arranged between the visiting student and the host mentor, then provided in an e-mail to the instructor by the end of the first week.
  - The visiting student will be expected to be punctual and otherwise abide by etiquette required
  - The student will send a bi-weekly report to A&M-SA instructor of time spent at the internship every other Friday afternoon as well as a brief summary of work performed.
    - Provide any details of circumstances that prevented normally scheduled attendance at the internship
- **Reflection Papers** – to be turned into A&M-SA instructor
  - Early Reflection Paper
    - Write a 1-2 page reflection on what you hope to gain from this experience.
    - Due Wednesday September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025
  - Post Reflection Paper
    - Write a 3-4 page reflection on what you have gained from this experience
    - Provide specific examples of what was challenging, what was rewarding, new things you didn't expect to experience etc...
    - Due Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- **Student will request and ensure a letter from the Justice Challenge that lists their contributions, accomplishments and performance** is sent to A&M-SA instructor
  - Letters should be sent from a work e-mail or on letter-head of the institution to A&M-Instructor's e-mail
  - Due dates for letters:

- Due Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- **Post-Experience meeting with A&M-SA instructor**
  - Date to be determined by student and instructor

### **Grading**

The grade in this course is dependent upon several items:

- 1) Communication – as this is an off-site experience, it is imperative that the student communicates their involvement weekly and that the mentor of the internship provides feedback in a verifiable form (communication must be sent from a work e-mail and/or on verifiable letter head of the institution).
- 2) Assignments – all assignments must be turned in by the due dates with some exceptions (university-excused reasons). These assignments will be graded for quality and effort.
- 3) Effort put forth – assuring that the student did attend the pre-agreed to terms of time and effort put forth at the off-site internship.