

IDST 369 Frequently Asked Questions

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- **What is IDST 369?**

IDST 369 – Career Related Field Experience is sometimes called WKU's *Internship course*. This class offers students the opportunity to develop practical work experience in an area related to their major field of study, learn about career planning and management, and earn college credits. IDST 369 is open to any WKU student with Junior or Senior status (completed at least 60 hours). Sections of IDST 369 are offered in the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. In most cases, the class is also offered in a 2nd bi-term for students needing to sign up after the semester has started.

- **Why should I take IDST 369?**

One key to finding rewarding professional employment after graduation is relevant work experiences while you are still in school. These might be internships, community partnerships, service projects, or employment with an organization that's related to your major or career goals. For most WKU students, professional employment is the most common way to gain relevant career experience.

- **How many hours of supervised work experience will I need?**

IDST 369 may be taken as a 1-, 2-, or 3-credit hour course. Each credit hour requires 50 supervised hours of work during the semester in which you are registered.

1-Credit Hour = 50 Hours during the semester (approx. 3.3 hours per week)

2-Credit Hour = 100 Hours during the semester (approx. 6.6 hours per week)

3-Credit Hour = 150 Hours during the semester (approx. 10 hours per week)

Note that the hours must be completed during the semester in which you are enrolled in the course. With prior permission, students may work during the summer or holiday breaks and count those hours as part of a Fall/Spring semester course. If prior permission is not secured work outside the term will not be counted. 369 will not recognize past employment that was not completed with a current contract between the instructor and student/employer.

- **What are appropriate work experiences for IDST 369?**

Students must have their experience approved at the beginning of the course. Acceptable work experiences are those that directly relate to your major field of study/future career goals and would provide you with useful exposure to some area of that field or occupation.

Please Read Carefully: Work Experience for IDST 369 must relate to and compliment your major/program of study at WKU. Students must carefully document and demonstrate the suitability of their planning work experience.

Common full and part-time jobs such as: retail, restaurant, day care, on-campus student worker, RA, helping a professor with a project, etc. do not typically fulfill this requirement. Please check with the School of Professional Studies if you have questions about the suitability of a particular work experience.

- **Will you find me an internship experience?**

Students who sign up for IDST 369 must have already secured their own suitable work experience. Please do not enroll in the course until you're already employed.

- **Can I work for myself?**

No. IDST 369 must be supervised professional work experience. Part of the course requirements include a performance review by your manager. Independent sales and service work, consulting, etc. are great experiences, but not suited to the class.

- **What else does the course require?**

All IDST 369 students, regardless of the number of credit hours, will complete several instructional modules related to different aspects of the career planning and management process. As part of these modules, students will complete several projects (e.g., resume design). These projects are submitted at the end of the semester and, along with the evaluations of your work experience, are the basis for the grade in the course.

For more information, please visit the School of Professional Studies:

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