



SOCIOLOGY/CRIMINOLOGY INTERNSHIP (SOC 488)

POTENTIAL WORKSITES

American Indian Development Associates (juvenile justice/tribal law interests)

Student Testimony:

The duties I had at my field placement were primarily with the juvenile detention center and AIDA's cultural service program. I attended weekly meetings at the facilities and met with the Native youth for several cultural groups. Although I was not Native, this internship was able to give me hands on experience working with cultural social research, presentations, and mentoring. I worked one-on-one mentoring with a client from the state facility. I met weekly with this client for about an hour at a time. We usually discussed activities going on in our lives and played board games or listened to his MP3 player. This meeting would take place in the CYFD youth detention center so it had a lot of limitations on what we could do while we met with each other. I was given experience in the state facility and got to know a lot of the CYFD staff. I am glad this placement did not require cultural knowledge and it taught be the importance of cultural services to incarcerated youth. AIDA also provides a lot of other services and they are usually busy doing research and surveys. At the time of my placement these areas did not need assistance much, but it is all about the timing and what is going in the agency.

APD (Criminal Nuisance Abatement Team)

Student Testimony:

This internship was very fun, I got to see real police work in action. There were many time when my adrenaline started pumping. I think this internship with CNAU is great for those who are interested in law enforcement, you will see daily administration task the officers have to do, but at the same time you will spend most of your time in the field with the officers. I think for this internship I only did about 45 minutes of paper work, the rest of the time I was in the field with the officers. My advice to those of you who are going to do this is to not be timid about asking the officers a question, they are very eager to tell you about what they do. Also plan on going out to eat with them a lot, they sure do like going out to eat. I think the best way to schedule your internship with CNAU is to put in 5 hour block at a time. Sometimes the officers have to get paper work in order before they can go out. And they go to a lot of properties so doing it for a couple of hours isn't very realistic.

Student Testimony:

My duties as an intern at the Criminal Nuisance Abatement Unit (CNAU) include responding to calls at properties that are related to criminal activity, prosecuting property owners who have failed to provide a safe environment for our law-abiding citizens, and various investigations

Student Testimony:

I had a good experience with the CNAU the officers treated me well, and were very responsive and informative when it came to any questions that I had. My typical day with the detectives usually consisted of me going downtown to their headquarters, attending their meetings, going with them as they administered warrants, and also riding along with them as they conducted their investigations. The detectives of the CNAU usually investigate houses that are known to be a criminal nuisance, and take steps to get the owners of the property to comply to stop the illegal activity at the residence. The illegal activity usually consisted of growing or making illegal drugs, having housing code violations, disturbing the peace, and domestic violence. The way that these illegal activities would usually make it to the attention of the CNAU is through excessive calls for service, tips from locals in the neighborhood, or tips from other police officers who took note of possible violations in the house. The main purpose of the CNAU since its creation in 2001 is to, “deprive the criminal element of a base of operations and the tools with which they commit their crimes” (CNAU Pamphlet).

Student Testimony:

I ride along with the officers to referred properties as well as witness knock and talks, read cases and see the overall duties and experiences they face each day. My duties are to engage, study and take notes.

General APD Placement

Student Testimony:

I have learned so much from doing this internship through APD, especially since I am lucky enough to not have to stay with the same unit all semester long. I think that is the major strength of the particular internship that I am doing, because over the past two semesters I have been able to go with K-9, Vice, Gangs, All the shifts of field officers (day, night, and swing), field investigators, The 911 call center, admin in the SW substation and I’ve also done a DWI checkpoint and gone to the shooting range.

Albuquerque Police Department Violent Crime Unit

The internship for the Albuquerque Police Department Violent Crimes Unit consists of the following: As an intern you will observe and sometimes participate in investigating violent crimes such as Sex Crimes, Homicides and Robberies. This will include responding to crime scenes and observing detectives from the start of a violent crime investigation to the arrest and interrogation of an offender. As a part of a violent crime intern you will learn the basics of investigating violent crimes from preparing photo arrays and collecting and preserving evidence and preparing and executing search warrants on residences and even offenders.

Crime Lab

Student Testimony:

My internship placement for the semester was with the crime lab. This was a very interesting internship and helped me network with a lot of different officers. The career I want to go into is the police department and then become a detective in Criminalistics. During my internship I was able to go with the firearms and DNA portion of the lab. In this time I worked a project for firearms dealing with casings from the guns and at the end of my time with firearms the supervisor took me to the range and allowed to shoot some rare firearms that the lab has. During my time with the DNA portion I helped process cases that were going to court. I helped test items for DNA and semen and saw how the process worked to find a match. Because I only spent about a month with each of these units I also went on ride alongs within the department. I was paired up with a field investigator who took me on the calls he takes during his shift. The calls we take can range from a residential burglary, photographing a domestic violence situation, to processing the scene of a homicide or suicide. This internship placement is for students who have a strong passion for solving crimes and very proactive. The supervisors you will be working with are very nice and helpful and willing to work with your schedule. This is a great place where you can learn about the different parts of an investigation and get hands on experience with working a crime scene.

District Attorney's Office

Student Testimony:

My internship at the district attorney's office has been an enlightening experience, as an opportunity I am grateful for it has been challenging, and I feel as though I am learning a lot and have been processing it through a sociological lens. I am in the domestic violence division and the attorney that I report to is Edna Frances Sprague. Edna is a sharp woman with quick wit, an open liberal and a proud feminist. I get to the office before Edna does so that I can work on filing and organizing her paperwork. Once she gets into the office I start drilling her with questions about cases that are going on, what her agenda for the day is like, what judges she will be in front of, and legal questions in general. She takes me with her everywhere she goes, and I usually am barely keeping up with her as she marches back and forth between the office and up and down the halls of the courthouse. Sometimes I feel frustrated that my knowledge level and lack of legal expertise prevents me from being more proactive. If I see that something needs to be done, I do it and I try to ask often is there is anything I can do to help. I take daily notes, which include lists of words I look up when I get home, things that I have learned that I do not want to forget, moments throughout the day that I am inspired by and want to remember, sociological observations about law as an institution with special presence of mind towards race and gender relationships and lastly notes on the way I feel the internship changing my theoretical perspective. Even though I feel frustrated by how overwhelming it is to feel like I know nothing I am daily rejuvenated by the strength of the team I get to be a small part of and I am coming up with lots of ideas for my final essay.

Student Testimony:

It is now the middle of the semester and it has been some of the most interesting days I have spent in the academic setting. I owe this illumination period to the internship I am doing at Bernalillo District Attorney's Office (Crime Against Children Unit). Among the many things I have learned I can include seeing the judicial process unfold in front of my own eyes. Up to last semester I had only read about theories and processes in the courts and in society in general. I believe doing field work opens a new spectrum of possibilities. An intern is not only a tool but it serves as a precursor and the continuation of the system that safeguards our traditions and customs in society. A balance has to be established and what better way than to keep an eye in the future to full the continuation of the learning from the most simple job to the most complex position. Some of my duties include the designation of closed cases as the opening of new cases. The opening of cases includes reading and summarizing the case at hand for the proper delivery of the questionable facts in the court of law. One of the most important and interesting things that I have been designated is the reading and evaluation of criminal complaints to which summaries are also created. This task allows me to see the gravity of the problems the system of government faces with its civilians.

Student Testimony:

My role is a victim advocate (full time). I am part of the domestic violence prosecution team. I am coordinating with victims to get them to go to court and to make sure their voice is heard, while also getting them any resources I can that would be helpful.

Student Testimony:

I am working at the office of the District Attorney in the Pre-Prosecution Probation Division. The setting is very professional and my main duties include variations of paralegal work on my assigned computer. I do most of the documentation on opening new cases, collecting and sending restitution (money owed by the probationer), as well as do the documentation on closing successful or unsuccessful cases. I have also sat in with the probationers during their meetings with their counselor.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Student Testimony:

I was a part of the Enforcement Task Force. I assisted in investigations, on site interviews, intake procedures, mediations, paperwork/closing charges, and went to court proceedings.

Metropolitan Court

Student Testimony:

Here's what I did at Metro: courtroom observations, BAC and UAs on defendants, learned how to look up defendants on the AS-400 computer program--checked for warrants, and scheduled counseling for clients; informed new clients on their conditions of probation and ensured they understood and signed all documents (conditions of release and ignition interlock paperwork); shadowed various POs in every specialty (Drug Court, DV Court, ect); and

I even got to do a few sentencing recommendations in court! I was with a supervisor for sentencing. Also, the dress code required me to wear jacket and tie. A jacket and tie is required when going to court. Just a head's up for future interns. Some days I did a lot of UAs simply because the POs get "slammed" and used me to help free them up. So that's a big part of it too. I would recommend interning here as long as you're not afraid to be put to work!

Student Testimony:

The first two weeks, my supervisor, Terese Hauge, wanted me to sit in on various courtrooms observing different judges. She wanted me to understand the flow of the courtroom, while being exposed to different judge's styles as well as some legal proceedings that I might not have been familiar with. During these two weeks, I attended various courtrooms and simply observed while taking notes.

Weeks 3 and 4 I spent my time observing in the Background Investigation Division of Metro Court. During the morning hours I shadowed a background investigator, Jamie Brady, who was in charge of attending Misdemeanor Arraignments. She completed write-ups of people's criminal histories, and then went to court and made suggestions to the judge on what she thought that person's bond should be. She would either ask the judge to lower the bond, increase the bond, or continue the bond. During the afternoon, I shadowed Martin Burkhardt, another background investigator that specialized in Felony First Appearances. His duties were essentially the same as Jamie's, composing write-ups of criminal histories and presenting them to the judge. During these two weeks I also observed Intake Officers who interviewed people in custody via webcam to gather community tie information (job, family, school, criminal history, etc.). The intake officers were also able to release people on their own recognizance if they felt the person was not a danger to society or a flight risk.

Week 5 was my first actual week in the Probation and Supervision unit. This was the first time that I actually gained some hands-on experience. I mostly spent my time with a probation officer, Lat Smith, who has been working in this division for 26 years. He took me under his wing and made it clear that he wanted me doing the work, not just observing. During this time, I gave urine analysis drug tests as well as breath tests to clients coming in to see their probation officers. I also conducted intake interviews for first-time clients, gathering basic demographic information. I also did some basic office duties, such as restocking and escorting clients to their PO's office. So far, my experience has been fun and educational. I have learned a lot about the general court proceedings, but more importantly, about how each division of the court is intertwined to work together making a cohesive unit. I have not had much contact with the offenders yet, but I assume I will be dealing with the people more and more as my time progresses. I am very grateful for this opportunity and am excited to embark on the second half of my time at Metro Court.

Student Testimony:

They had me first spend a week with Background Investigation where I got to observe them interviewing people in jail to get them ready to go for their arraignments and I got to read the reports they wrote up. I also gained a little experience with conducting background searches on the NCIC. After that we got to go and talk to the different divisions of the court and see what

they do, but that was only for two days. Now I am placed with my probation officer. Right now I am observing him conduct his interviews with his probates and helping him file paperwork. I got to help give one Urine Analysis test and also fill out the form for a warrant.

Student Testimony:

This semester I am helping out in probation/parole and in the First Offenders Program. My duties includes signing in the clients, giving UA/BAC, answering/returning calls, taking warrants up to the judge, meeting with clients and giving them their next appts, doing intakes. I do just about everything an actual probation officer can with the exception of going to court and speaking in front of a judge (I just go and observe) and issuing warrants (I just take care of the paperwork after the warrants been issued by the probation officer).

Student Testimony:

I am working at the Bernalillo County Metro Court helping out in background investigations and probation. I am doing a lot of real work that a probation officer does, I perform UA's and take case notes. I run criminal histories and make sure they follow the court prescribed rules for each individual case. I was unaware of how much work the probation officers actually do and how many people besides the ones on probation that they actually see. When I was in background it is very interesting because you get to read the criminal complaints and see how many previous crimes they have committed in order to set a fair bail amount. The amount of work is just enough to never be bored but it is light enough to be able to network and really get to meet the people that in my opinion do the most work in the justice system.

Student Testimony:

The internship at Metro Court has been a great experience. For the first three weeks, I was placed in background investigation. In the background investigation department I got the chance to interview and ask inmates questions when they were booked. We are able to look up information about their criminal history and decide if they can bail or bond out. I also got the chance to work with a background investigator. Working with them we are able to look at inmate's cases and determine if the bond should be higher, lower, or continue at the bond that the jail has posted. Going to court was also part of working with the background investigator. We attend court twice a day misdemeanors are taken care of in the morning and in the afternoon the felonies are addressed. Going to court we are able to see how different judges all have different rulings. I am now working with a probation officer. I get to learn the system in their computer that they use to look up clients, history, therapy groups, people who are booked and much more. Being able to sit in while they talk to their clients is great because we get to see how they address them. Putting together files has also been a neat experience. The files contain client's history, probation and supervision contracts, as well as their results for substance use. I will also be able to conduct urinary tests and record the test and if positive, take the client up to the judge and address the issue. Metro Court is constantly busy from the moment that you step into the courthouse till you leave. There is always something new to learn!

United States Marshals Service

****Students must apply directly with the US Marshals Service internship program before they can be considered for the Sociology/Criminology Internship program. The application deadline for the US Marshals Service is Oct. 25th, 2013 (For Spring) and April 15th, 2013 (For Fall.) Information on the US Marshals Service Internship program contact Deputy US Marshal Kenneth Daniel at Kenneth.daniel@usdoj.gov.****

Student Testimony:

Currently, I am an intern at the United States Marshals. My basic duties are mostly administrative work for the specific section or unit I am assigned to as well as field observation on assignments outside of the office. The other interns and I are switched to different sections or units of the department about every 3 weeks. I began my intern position at the Asset Forfeiture program. The U.S. Marshals are in charge of dispersing and collecting assets seized by any agency under the Department of Justice such as FBI, DEA, ATF, etc. I helped them file payroll information, prepare net equity forms for the vehicles getting ready for auction and audit, observe how money assets delivered by DEA agents are electronically processed into our account and go to the U.S. Marshal auction to see how and to whom the property is sold and the procedures to it. I also learned how different assets are dispersed, how its determined, and how much scrutinized and audited this program is compared to other programs. I also learned how to use the PTS which is the Prisoner Tracking System program. Right now I am in the Court and Prisoners Operation unit and I am doing mostly administrative work as well, but also more investigations under certain fugitive with felony warrants, as well as field observation going to the airport for JPATS which stands for Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System, and observing certain federal court cases. The prisoners clerk desk taught me how to schedule prisoners. I am also learning about the laws and procedures needed to go after fugitives and operations to capturing them and taking them into custody.

Student Testimony:

I'm in Operations. This is where I deal a lot in observing court earlier in the mornings. After that I usually help the administrative office deal with warrants or forms that involve warrants. Also I've had to organize medical forms, and reimbursement forms for the deputies such as gas, food, etc. Finally I've been able to help certain deputies organize cases files, and look over a few of them in great detail. A major strength that I found being where I'm posted is how I've learned the U.S. Marshals are keeper of all the warrants in the U.S. and it is there responsibility to send out, and receive different warrants to and from different agencies. Another major thing I have learned about is how court proceedings actually occur, and the different stages a person goes through in the Legal Justice system.

Student Testimony:

During my administrative duties I learned quite a bit about the USMS finances, human resources, and the asset forfeiture system. I actively use PTS (Marshal Prisoner Tracking System) to do various tasks that pertain to the prisoners medical. I also managed to get away

from strictly administrative duties and get into some of the activities that I am more interested in. One of these activities was working with contractors from the asset forfeiture program to check out confiscated vehicles and figure out what to do with them. and I visit the impound accompanied by officers of the DEA and FBI to search vehicles for anything that could allow cause it to be taken by the government. Once any agency takes a vehicle or an asset of any kind, it is taken and managed by the USMS. The assets are often sold at auctions. Sometimes they are given back to the owners, and other times they are used by various agencies. There is over 4 billion dollars in the asset forfeiture account. I also work with the tactical explosives division of the USMS alongside APD bomb squad. My job is to handle various explosives and hide them for the canine explosive detection team. Some of the explosives that I have been trained with include, TNT, Symtex, and a homemade bomb made from fertilizer and racing fuel. For the most part my internship consists of watching the procedures of the deputy marshals and asking questions and learning, kind of like a "ride a long".

DISMAS House (Diersen Charities)

Student Testimony:

Currently I assist all positions at the facility and they include: job search and placement, job check-ins and validation, offender risk assessments, weekly counseling and case notes, termination letters, filing and putting together resident files. I have also sat in with security and conducted head counts and monitor resident behavior. In the next few weeks I will sitting in on orientation, journaling and money management classes, and I have been offered a chance to help with Transition Skills-a new course implemented by the BOP.

Student Testimony:

My duties as an intern at the Diersen Half-way house include alot of counseling work. I sit down with the residents one on one and do case notes and individual program plans. This is done to evaluate thier most at risk areas and get them involved with inhouse classes to reduce thier chances of reentering correctional facilities.

Student Testimony:

My internship at Diersen Charities has been a very interesting and rewarding experience thus far. My weekly duties include assisting counselors with their resident's files, sitting in on case notes, and also helping to go through resident files for upcoming audits. I also spend a lot of time assisting the social services coordinator with resident job search forms, to which I have been personally assigned to, and using the Fresh Start online program to enter fixed movements for residents to job search in the coming week. I have also done work in the front CMO office (Central Monitoring Office, where the residents check-in and check-out when they are coming and going) completing duties such as resident destination check-ins and filing the daily mail under resident name.

La Plazita Institute (community based organization in the South Valley)

Student Testimony:

My duties as an intern have included working as a liaison between the Institute and the curanderas. Once a month we have a curandera that visits and works with her students in providing healing sessions. Collaborating to provide a more efficient system of operations, i.e. registration, liability, etc., we are working to create a healing atmosphere for the individuals that participate. I have also been given the responsibility of disseminating flyers and contacting individuals for meetings held here. We have a number of upcoming activities, i.e. Luis Rodriguez, Gathering of Nations, etc. that have taken up a huge chunk of my time. I am trying to get into contact with individuals that La Plazita can successfully host events within the community. Largely, my placement has been to assist the director in any and all organization-related community involvement.

Domestic Violence Homicide Review Team

Student Testimony:

My duties as an intern has consisted of entering data into a database, reviewing cases and writing narratives for the Team case review, meeting with Danielle and discussing the death review process and domestic violence, she has given me some academic articles on the subject and we have been discussing them. I also have gone to the Teen Dating Violence Committee, Native American Committee, and the regular Intimate Partner Death Review Team meetings. I have also been given the task of researching other domestic violence death review teams across the country.

Institute for Social Research

Student Testimony:

Generally, my duties are to assist with the research projects being conducted at ISR. More specifically, I've been assigned to help with an extensive literature review on parole revocation. ISR conducted a project funded by the Justice Research and Statistics Association to assess parole revocations and violations. Now, after the assessment, ISR is looking to publish research based on their findings and it is my job to research similar topics already covered in published literature. So far, my research has provided me with over 30 articles explaining the conditions leading to and predicting parole revocation. I am finding larger emphasis on parole revocation as it relates to gender and absconding. ISR is also doing research on other projects which I help out with from time to time, however, my main focus is on the parole revocation literature review for the time being.

PB and J (community organization in South Valley)

Student Testimony:

My primary duty at PB&J (up to this point) has been to conduct research. I have been working on creating a "factsheet" for PB&J that explains why PB&J's programs are important. For the first couple of weeks I did a lot of reading on the history and background of PB&J and on the programs that they run. I spent the next couple of weeks doing research to collect statistics and facts on incarceration as well as on PB&J's impact on individuals who are incarcerated. I have

just recently finished the fact sheet I have been working on (this week), so from this point on I don't know what I will be doing. Dina has given me the emails of a few people at PB&J who are in charge of some the programs they run in the jails. I am currently in the process of setting up a time to go observe...as of right now I am scheduled to go observe at MDC on Mon. Feb. 28th.

New Mexico Public Defenders' Office

Student Testimony:

The internship at the New Mexico Public Defenders Office is a great opportunity to learn about the methods and processes of criminal law. The office handles homicide cases from multiple New Mexico counties. Some essential, although intense, aspects of the internship include meeting clients in jails, prisons, and at the state mental hospital. As an intern, you are responsible for studying case motions, jury surveys, case law, interrogations, and psychological evaluations. Interns are also required to summarize police reports, attend court proceedings, assist in preparing trial exhibits for court, and write arguments and pleadings for the defense. There is also the opportunity to work with the office's master social worker to gather information about clients' backgrounds from hospitals and schools. This internship is an extremely rewarding experience for anyone who is interested in criminal defense, and who is ready to question the application of laws in New Mexico, the Constitutional rights of defendants, and their own perception of justice.