



Fact Sheet: SUNY Progress Towards an Internship for Every Undergraduate Student

Internships are an important component in achieving upward mobility. Sixty percent of employers prefer to hire graduates and workers with internship experience. A 2021 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Career and Workforce Preparation Module found that only 35% of first-generation seniors reported participating in an internship—far lower than their peers. Forty percent of applicants had to decline internships because of barriers like being unable to afford to participate.

Thanks to the historic investment by Governor Hochul and the Legislature in SUNY’s operating budget for 2023-24, SUNY is investing first-ever sustainable funding of \$10 million per year to support State-operated campuses in increasing access to internships for students. More than 3,000 students will be able to participate in internships as a result of these resources.

- **All 29 campuses will increase the number of paid internship slots for undergraduate students.** For example:
 - Farmingdale is using the majority of its allocation to fund student stipends for unpaid internships and develop new off-campus and on-campus internships.
 - SUNY Oswego is providing stipends for 145 student internships as well as ten research experiences to ensure equity.
- **At least 28 campuses will provide internship stipends including wraparound supports** like childcare and transportation access that students need to complete internships. For example:
 - Empire State will use its allocation to pay for internship stipends as well as to address barriers to internships such as providing childcare support and access to professional clothing.
 - SUNY Canton is using a portion of its allocation to help pay for transportation costs to and from internship sites for off-campus internships.
- **At least 25 campuses will hire staff for internship coordination**, which includes developing employer and industry partnerships. For example:
 - New Paltz is leveraging its allocation to hire an internship coordinator with a focus on program design, education, political science, and engineering.
- **At least 9 campuses will invest in software programs to create job boards** and track internship opportunities. For example:
 - SUNY Delhi is investing in the software platform Handshake to connect students with internship opportunities.

These investments build on other steps that SUNY is taking to address economic growth and upward mobility this year, including:

- Launching a \$5.5-million internship program for community college students in partnership with ESD;
- Launching the \$500,000 SUNY Climate Corps program, [partnering with other state agencies](#);
- Launching [the Veterans Enrollment and Support Internship Program](#); and
- Launching the Chancellor’s Summer Research Excellence Fund, which provides [150 undergraduates with paid internships this summer at five campuses](#).