

# CENTER FOR LIFE'S WORK

## The SPARK Grant for internships

Do you have a summer project(s), research opportunity, and/or a problem that needs a fresh perspective? Learn more about how Nazareth's SPARK grant can help your organization find and cultivate talent early.

### What is the SPARK grant?

#### Students Pursuing Academic + Real-world Knowledge (SPARK)

Beginning in January 2018, eligible Nazareth students can apply for a grant of \$1,500 that can be used to help cover undergraduate student costs for an unpaid summer internship, study abroad/international experience, and summer research.

SPARK represents Nazareth's investment in our students, but also in our community and employer partners.

### Who are Nazareth Students?

Nazareth College is a nationally ranked institution whose academic strengths cross an unusually broad spectrum of 60 majors. Here, our students form strong foundations in the classroom and then take what they've acquired out into the real world to learn in the most meaningful way: first-hand experience. Nazareth students are committed to making a difference in their own lives and the world around them, with 97 percent participating in community service activities during their four years. They are open, impassioned, and driven to learn.

### What do employers say about Nazareth interns? They love them!

**99%** Takes feedback & acts to improve

Exceeded employer expectations

**97%** Judgement & prioritization

Exceeded employer expectations

**96%** High-quality, error-free work

Exceeded employer expectations

**97%** Communicates information and asks for clarification

Exceeded employer expectations

**98%** Technical skills

Exceeded employer expectations

*Employer internship evaluation responses since 2016:*

### Center for Life's Work

Golisano Academic Center, room 104 • [naz.edu/cflw](http://naz.edu/cflw) • [cflw@naz.edu](mailto:cflw@naz.edu) • 585-389-2878



NAZARETH UNIVERSITY

# The SPARK Grant

## Getting started

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### Send us an internship description:

**dleybur7@naz.edu**

If you already have a student in mind, let us know. We accept and promote internship postings throughout the year, but student schedules align best with positions offered during fall, spring, and summer terms. Otherwise, we'll post it in our database and get the word out.

### What do I include in my posting?

- ▶ A brief description of the organization.
- ▶ A listing of responsibilities, tasks, and learning opportunities available to the student(s) in your internship.
- ▶ Time frame.
- ▶ Compensation (paid or unpaid?). We encourage all organizations to compensate their interns if possible. All organizations should familiarize themselves with national standards and labor laws.
- ▶ Instructions on how students should apply (e.g. through your website? Email a resume?).

### Who is eligible for SPARK at Nazareth?

- ▶ First-time undergraduate students within 24 months of their start date at Nazareth (typically first-year and second-year students).
- ▶ Transfer undergraduate students within 12 months of their start date at Nazareth.
- ▶ GPA of 2.5 or greater when your application is approved (or permission granted by application committee).
- ▶ Students must have an active planning process established with their career coach at Nazareth.
- ▶ Students must be registered for the semester following their SPARK experience.

### Defining an internship:

- ▶ An internship is a pre-professional guided learning experience that typically occurs during one semester (fall, spring, or summer).
- ▶ The SPARK grant only applies to summer internships.
- ▶ SPARK internships can be one credit (at least five weeks for a minimum of 50 hours) or three credits (at least eight weeks for a minimum of 120 hours).

### Designing an internship:

The experience must be an extension of the classroom, a learning opportunity that provides for application of knowledge gained in the classroom. It cannot simply be to advance the operations of the employer or be work that a regular employee would routinely perform.

- ▶ The skills or knowledge learned must be transferable to other employment settings.
- ▶ The experience has a defined beginning and end and a job description with desired qualifications.
- ▶ There are clearly defined learning goals related to the student's professional goals and coursework.
- ▶ There is supervision by a professional with expertise and educational or professional background in the field of the experience.
- ▶ There is routine feedback by the experienced supervisor.
- ▶ There are resources, equipment, and facilities provided by the site that support learning objectives or goals.

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## PROGRAM CONTACT

### Dale Leyburn

Director, Internship Program

585-389-5189

[dleybur7@naz.edu](mailto:dleybur7@naz.edu)

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