

Gain Valuable Work Experience

related to your career while strengthening connections and opportunities in a rural North Carolina community!

Internship Components

Eligible Experiences - The internship opportunity identified by a Golden LEAF Scholar must be aligned with the student's course of study. Course of study is defined as a declared major or intended major for first-year students that have not yet declared a major. For students without a declared major, additional information regarding courses taken or registered to take may be requested to confirm course of study.

Eligible Sites - Internship sites include, but are not limited to, businesses, non-profits, governmental entities, and/or companies. Internships must be completed in person at a site physically located in a qualifying rural county (see [link](#) to qualifying counties). Internships may be completed at an entity with multiple locations including with locations outside of the eligible counties, provided the student completes the internship at a site located in an eligible county.

Interns are responsible for: contacting their prospective internship site: discussing the internship opportunity with the site; working with the site to craft a job description for their internship; and providing the contact information for the internship site on their application.

While the Golden LEAF Rural Internship Initiative aims to provide its participating scholars with valuable work experiences, there are guidelines for activities scholars may engage in within Bioscience, Clinical, Health, and Medical (BCHM) settings. You can review a list of pre-approved BCHM positions [here](#).

Application Information

Applications must include an unofficial transcript (to verify course of study information), initial internship site information (site name, contact, and contact email), and a series of answers to short essay questions.

"This opportunity has been great in preparing me for day-to-day nursing in a medical office environment. I have been able to gain industry knowledge firsthand through both observations and hands-on opportunities. The skills that I've gained will be useful for bedside or administrative nursing roles."

Princess Alston

'22 Rural Internship Initiative Intern at Rocky Mount OIC

"The experience has not only changed my view of my hometown, but also fueled my commitment to serve. This transformation in my perception is one of the most valuable takeaways from my internship, and I am certain it will influence my approach and dedication as I move forward in my career in social work."

Sherra Dickerson

'23 Rural Internship Initiative Intern at Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Family Safety Program



Availability

Space is limited and prospective students are encouraged to apply by the early deadline for the best chances of securing acceptance.

Compensation

Pay rate is based on RII experience.

1st time	2nd time	3rd time
RII Participants:	RII Participants:	RII Participants:
\$16/hour	\$17/hour	\$18/hour

The internship will take place over a period of at least eight weeks, between May and August. Scholars can work a max of 400 hours with a required minimum of 320 (not to exceed 40 hours per week).

Timeline

- December 2, 2025 - Application Portal Opens
- January 22, 2026 - Early Application Deadline
- February 19, 2026 - Regular Application Deadline
- February-March 2026- Selection Window
- March 2026 - Interns Announced
- March-May 2026 - Internship Onboarding & Orientation
- May 18, 2026 - All Internships Begin
- August 7, 2026 - Internships End

Questions?

Contact us at rii@GoldenLEAF.org | 252-216-2575

For more information, please visit the [Golden LEAF Rural Internship Initiative Website](#).