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Incorporating Career and Research Experience for Student Success

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Incorporating Career and Research Experience for Student Success

Jenna Heath, M.Ed., UNLV College of Liberal Arts, and Melikabella Shenouda, B.A., UNLV College of Liberal Arts

Teaching Practice & Needs Addressed

- ★ **COLA 402** - Internship Development course; concurrent enrollment with internship placement
- ★ Unique curriculum surrounding **real-world scenarios** (e.g., mitigating workplace conflict, interviewing, personal branding, networking, professional communication, resume reviews)
- ★ **Immersion in engaging class environment**, featuring guest lectures by industry leaders with insight into local hiring pipeline trends
- ★ **Workforce and research internship options**, to foster workforce development and research skills necessary for postgraduate success

How Others Can Adopt This Practice

- ★ **Schedule a meeting** with your department's director of development and career centers relevant to your discipline to discuss effective program implementation
- ★ **Curate a list** of established and desired partnerships within the community, and invite them to become internship partners
- ★ **Consider which student groups** would be interested in acquiring workforce and/or research skills; plan direct outreach
- ★ **Consider which faculty** could teach an internship development course
- ★ **Build course content** surrounding internships and professional development

Resources & Where to Find Them

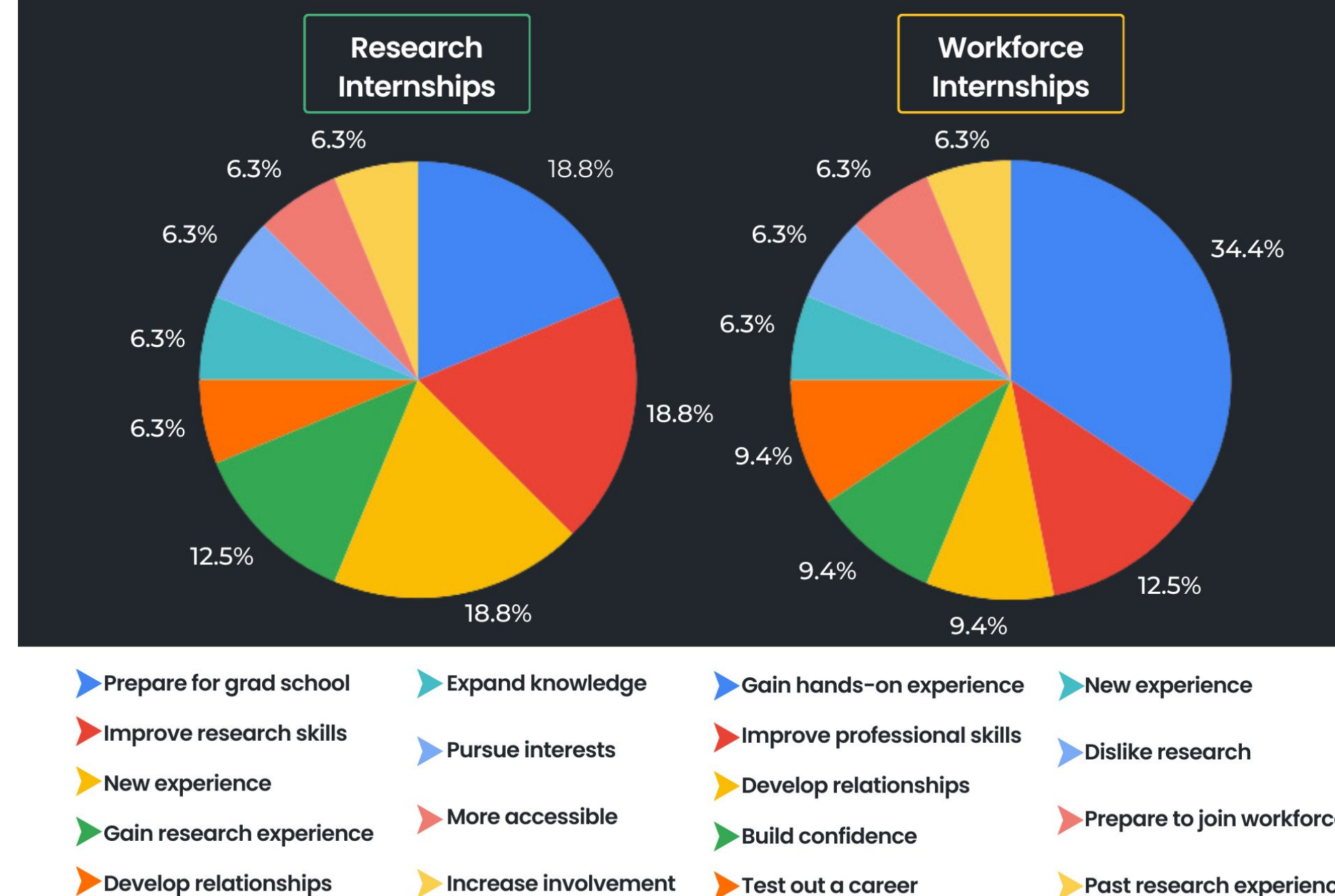
- ★ **Browse resources** to assist with course content accumulation and program development
 - COLA 402 available on Canvas Course Commons
 - LinkedIn Learning, <https://www.it.unlv.edu/institutional-memberships/linkedinlearning>
 - Open Educational Resources, <https://www.oercommons.org/>
 - OpenStax, <https://openstax.org/>
 - Open Textbook Library, <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks>
- ★ **Contact Jenna Heath, M.Ed.**, UNLV College of Liberal Arts Director of Student and Community Engagement at jenna.heath@unlv.edu

Evidence it Benefits Students

- ★ **High-impact experiential practice**; internships cultivate students' communication, professionalism, leadership, and other career readiness competencies
- ★ Successfully matched **605 UNLV students** with internships; 95% placement rate
- ★ Students have amassed **72,600 internship hours**
- ★ **Engaging assignments** (e.g., elevator pitch, career portfolio, LinkedIn profile creation, UNLV Career Fair attendance, UNLV OUR Symposium participation) hone students' public speaking, networking, and goal setting skills
- ★ Students often have the **opportunity to secure full-time or part-time positions** with their internship site, ensuring stable employment upon graduation
- ★ Collaborate with **150+ local/national internship partners** (i.e., 43% nonprofit organizations, 23% government agencies, 11% law firms, 8.5% UNLV departments, 8.5% events/media organizations, 6% healthcare organizations)

Student Perceptions on Internship Benefits

Why Students Choose...



References

Leif, S. A., Heath, J., and Moore, K. (2022). The Power and Perseverance of Liberal Arts Internships During COVID-19. *International Journal of Smart Education and Urban Society (IJSEUS)*, 13(1). <https://doi.org/10.4018/IJSEUS.299047>

National Association of Colleges and Employers. (2021). Competencies for a Career-Ready Workforce. <https://www.naceweb.org/uploadedfiles/files/2021/resources/nace-career-readiness-competencies-revised-apr-2021.pdf>

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