

UF Modernizing the Extension Internship Experience

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Where it started



- Timeline and due dates left Extension with limited options
- Students who were not selected had no opportunities to look for other employment
- No cohort experience

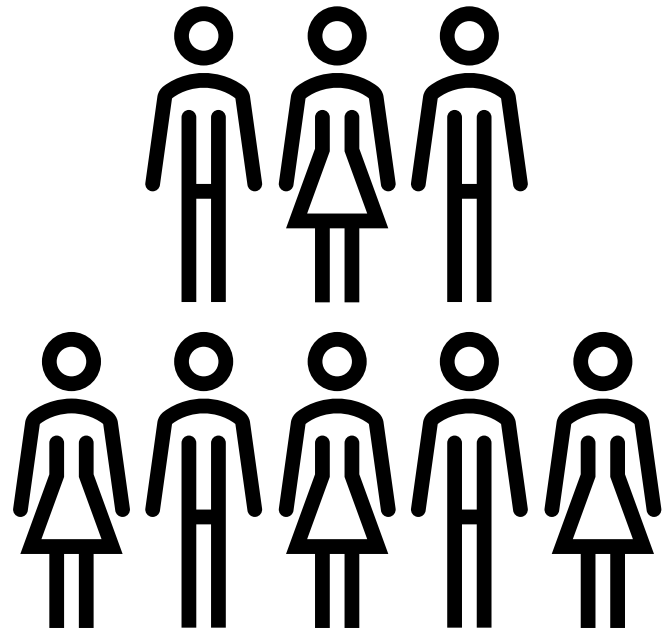
How it's going

- Increased number of competitive applicants
- Increased number of available internships
- Increased awareness of program among students
- Cohort experience
- Building knowledge and relationships starts in January (not June)



It Takes a Village

- Academic Programs Office
- Extension Dean's Office
- Agricultural Education and Communication Department (houses Extension minor)
- County Extension offices
- Departmental representatives



Vision

To grow the **talent pipeline**
for UF/IFAS Extension

Goals

- Benefit interns through a unique service-learning opportunity
- Provide support to Extension faculty and the communities they serve
- Expose students to a variety of Extension careers
- Connect students to academic programs in CALS that will prepare them for careers in Extension
- Give students a basic understanding of Extension and its functions as an educational agency
- Students develop and implement at least one Extension educational program

Established a Website

- General Information
- FAQ's
- Application portal and deadlines
- www.cals.ufl.edu/getinvolved/extension_internships

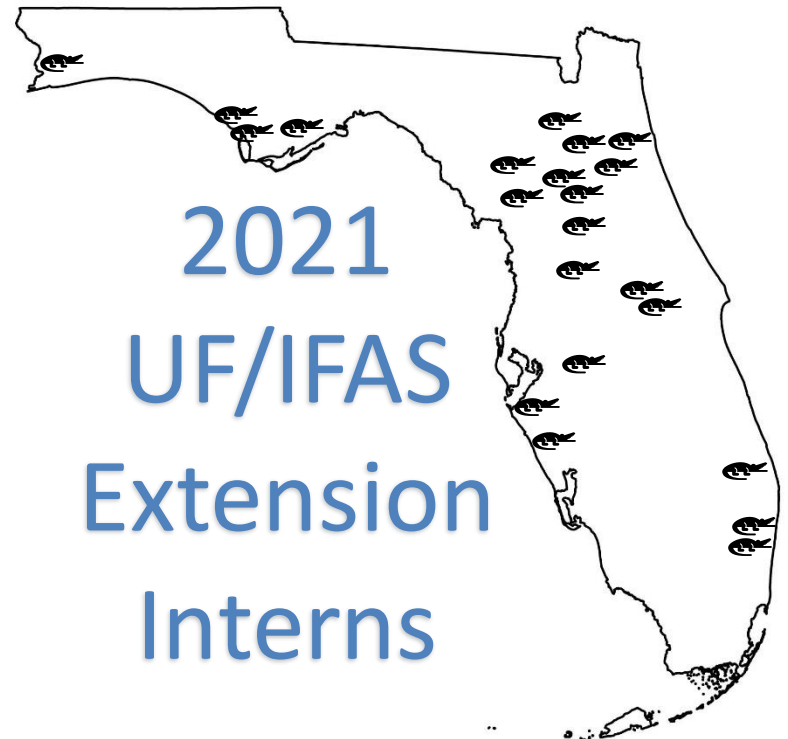
2020

- 50 applicants
- 12 interns representing 8 majors
- Academic credit available
- 320 hours max total
- \$14/hour
- Flexible hours



2021

- 71 applicants
- 22 interns representing 13 majors
 - USDA Higher Education Challenge grant funded 9 interns from Family, Youth and Community Sciences
 - CALS Dean's Office (academic programs) funded two interns



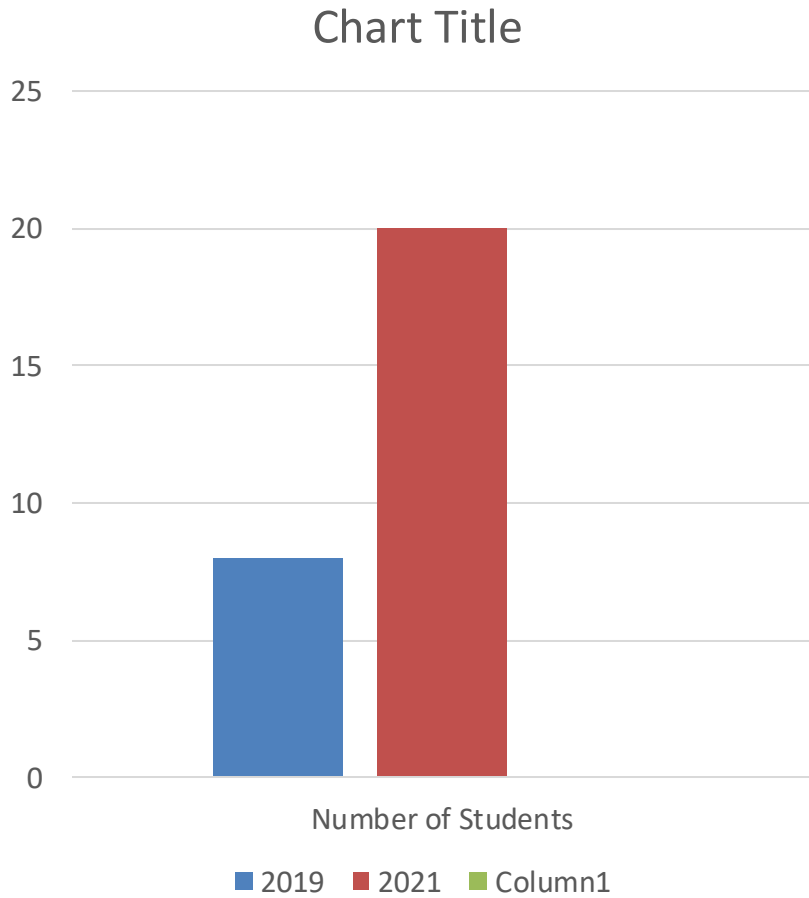
AEC4932 Building a Foundation for Extension Internship Success

- Hiring paperwork, youth protection training, background checks, etc.
- Land-grant system
- Job application materials and process
- Networking with Extension leaders
- Project proposals and presentations

Life doesn't come with a

RUBRIC

Extension Education Minor



- 3 of the 12 Summer 2020 Interns have entered an education/extension master's program?

Donor & alumni engagement

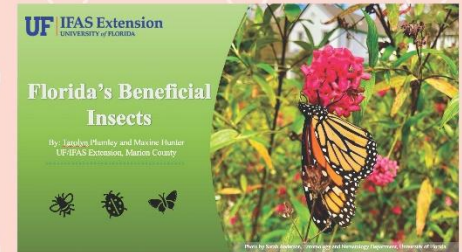
- Donors attended intern project presentations
- Many agents are also CALS alumni
- County Extension agents have access to a valuable commodity ... prospective students!



IFAS Summer internship 2020

One intern said,

“I accepted a position at the Citrus County Mosquito Control District as a Public Education Specialist ... **I know I got the job because of my Extension experience.** The internship taught me so much about public outreach! I regularly keep in contact with my mentor, a valuable professional contact and friend ... Virtual or in person, the experience was not one to miss out on!”



My webinars!



fact sheets

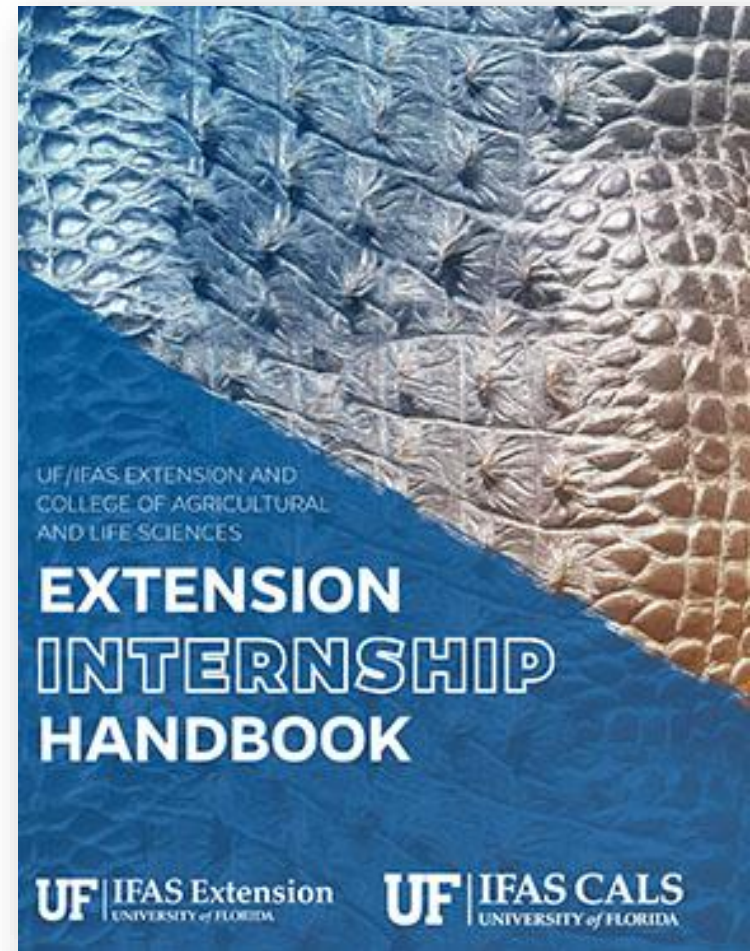


Project examples

- Florida Handbook for
Local Government
Climate Action
- Equine Publication and
Presentation
Development

What we've learned

- Students are uncomfortable with ambiguity
- Creating a cohort experience has been helpful for both interns and agents
- Full-time hiring decision-makers need to be more involved





Contact Us

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