Teaching Assistantship, Internship, Supplemental Instruction Leadership: What’s the Difference?

Credit Opportunities:

Teaching Assistantships (SPN 3810) are designed for students who want to explore the teaching profession. Students sign up for SPN 3810 “Applied Elementary Instruction” by first contacting a professor who will be teaching a SPN 1010 or a SPN 1020 course. Typically, you will earn 3 credits for attending all classes, tutoring students outside of class, keeping a journal of observations, turning in several reflection essays on pedagogical readings assigned by your instructor, and developing original mini-lessons on vocabulary, grammar, and culture under the supervision of your instructor. Currently, SPN 3810 is a 3-credit course but we hope to be able to offer 1- and 2-credit options soon.

Internships (SPN 3700) are opportunities to use your Spanish in professional settings while gaining academic credit. Some of the internships are unpaid, some are paid, and others are paid on commission. We have partnerships with area schools, afterschool programs for Latino children, and area businesses such as AFLAC and Vocalink. Internships are typically open to seniors and coordinated by Professors Maria Astudillo (maria.astudillo@wright.edu) and Ksenia Bonch Reeves (xenia.bonch@wright.edu). How it works:
- talk to your professor about available internships;
- fill out an application and have your advisor sign it;
- register for SPN 3700 “Internship in Spanish”
- fill out an internship contract.

You will be required to keep a record of hours worked and complete a mid-semester and a final evaluation with your site supervisor. Transportation is required, as well as good work attitude. For 3 credits, you must fulfill at least 135 hours, of which 120 hours must be completed on site.

Other Opportunities:

SI (Supplemental instruction) Leaders are paid $10.01/hr for up to 8 hours a week, including 2-3 hours for sitting in on class, 2 hours a week for your SI sessions, and 3 hours a week for session preparation. You must have taken at least one 3000-level course (typically SPN 3210), earned an A or B in the course you will be an SI for, and have a GPA of 3.0. SI leaders attend mandatory training and keep a record of student attendance. If you are interested, contact Dr. Melissa Doran (melissa.doran@wright.edu). Supplemental Instruction opportunities are limited each semester and students are typically recommended by faculty members.

You can also become a Spanish Tutor. You must have taken at least 15 credits at WSU including SPN 3210, earned a grade of A or B in the course you will be tutoring, and have a 3.0 GPA. Tutors earn $10.01/hr and can benefit from professional development opportunities available from Tutoring Services. Contact your Spanish advisor for approval.