



Delta Internship Opportunity – students as independent learners

For more information, email us at internship@delta.wisc.edu.

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Available When?	<i>Summer 2009 development, fall 2009 implementation</i>
Number of Interns sought:	1
Funding?	N/A
Intern Pre-requisites:	Agricultural science or related discipline (e.g. bacteriology, biochemistry, microbiology, others) and interest in teaching and learning

Responsibilities of the Delta intern:

- Help develop and model expectations of students as independent learners
- Facilitate content-based discussions with students in the course
- Assess how well students are performing as independent learners
 - Assess how well the course structure supports students as independent learners
 - Determine how to measure student readiness to be independent learners
 - Determine stumbling blocks/things that hinder students ability to do independent activities
- Contribute to teaching the course

Benefits to the Delta intern:

- Expand your knowledge of ruminant nutrition
- Gain experience teaching in a discussion-based course
- Work with faculty member committed to enhancing teaching to improve student learning
- Work in a course that has been part of a previous Teaching-As-Research study designed to determine how to make the course a better learning experience for upper level students
- Participate in a project with the intent to publish in a peer-reviewed journal
- Connect with the UW System Wisconsin Teaching Scholars Program

Dairy cow nutrition is the last in a series of three courses for upper level undergraduates. Over the past 5 years the course has undergone a transition from a traditional lecture-based course to a discussion-based format. In the class students typically read before coming to class, discuss content during class and complete follow-up assignments that demonstrate their learning. Discussions are paired with 3-4 computer labs; students also complete a project that is based on data that they collect from a local farm. Students write a report on their project and present it to the class.

This course requires that students be motivated and function as independent learners to complete the outside of class preparation (reading) and data collection and course project. This project aims to explore student preparation to be independent learners and the ability of the course to support them in this.

Starting point for Teaching-As-Research question(s):

- How well does a discussion-based course structure support students to be independent learners?
- What additional supports are needed to improve student success?

Delta Internship Program information: <http://www.delta.wisc.edu>

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