

HCC Internship FAQ



Logistics

When are internships offered? Internships begin in January or July. All internships run for two years.

Why is the internship two years long? Ministry is conducted in relationship and is as much caught as it is taught. Real learning happens over time as your relationships develop with your trainers and with the people you are serving. It is usually in the second year that progress is identified and difficulties begin to emerge. Over the two years, you will see people converted, Bible study groups starting to make progress, and struggling Christians making tough decisions to follow Christ. You will also see mistakes you have made, your failure to get your priorities right, etc, so you get to know yourself, your strengths and your weaknesses. In the second year, deep learning occurs. The two-year apprenticeship also gives continuity to the local ministry in terms of leadership. It IS a significant commitment, but it is a commitment worth making.

Can I be married and do an internship? Yes, but in any given time we may not be able to accept married applicants, based on our ability to provide housing. If you will be providing your own housing at your own expense then please let us know.

Can I get seminary credit for doing the internship? Yes, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary gives elective credits through the MAPS program. Three courses (Proclamation, Outreach, and Leadership) have been customized by us for our church context. Each class is worth 6 credits.

I'm not sure I want to be a pastor or in teaching ministry. Can I still do the internship? We encourage only those who are seriously considering pastoral ministry or a teaching ministry to apply for the program.

Applying

How early should I apply? Try to apply at least six months in advance. Spaces are limited, so getting your application in early is wise.

Is HCC able to provide internships for women? Yes. Our desire is to see men and women trained in gospel ministry to be effectively used in God's kingdom. We do not believe women are called to pastoral ministry however and will not affirm a woman's call to participate in pastoral ministry.

Where should I be in my education before doing the internship? A college degree is usually expected for intern candidates. Past interns have applied before and during their theological education. An undergraduate degree is not required. However, due to the intensive

nature of the internship you must not be enrolled in an undergraduate program while in the internship.

If you are in seminary then no more than 9 credits a semester may be taken (18 credits per year). This restriction is to free you up to pursue ministry in a nearly fully time capacity.

What if English is not my first language; can I still be an intern? Yes. Please contact us at info@hopewestnashville.com to discuss the proficiency level of English necessary to benefit from our program.

Intern Life

Is a stipend provided for the interns? Housing (including basic utilities) and most dinners are provided during the internship, and each intern receives a stipend of \$800/month to cover living expenses. We require each intern to purchase health insurance for themselves (and their family, if applicable) throughout the duration of the internship.

Will I be able to work while doing the internship? Yes, in fact, it is a requirement to find very part time (about 10 hours a week) employment in the area. The goal is to get to know people in the area as well as provide a portion of your financial needs. The intern program is an almost full-time commitment. By providing a stipend and housing, interns do not have to work much outside of the church and can spend their time learning about and observing the church.

Can I survive on \$800/month in Nashville? We recognize that the stipend is modest and it may be more challenging for couples. Since housing and most dinners are provided, usually health insurance and groceries are the largest monthly expenses for an intern.

Where does vacation fit in with the internship? Three weeks of vacation are provided per year. As with most ministry life there are busier and less busy times so vacation must be planned well in advance.

How are interns involved in the church? Interns are involved in various ministries of the church. In your first year you will be responsible for reading the bible one-to-one with people, leading men's/women's study, adult Sunday school, and prayer meeting. Year two (sometimes before) you will receive opportunities to preach. Men will preach from the pulpit on Sunday mornings. Women will have dedicated opportunities to proclaim the word to women at women's meetings.