

2023 Annual Report

CSU Extension Internship Program



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

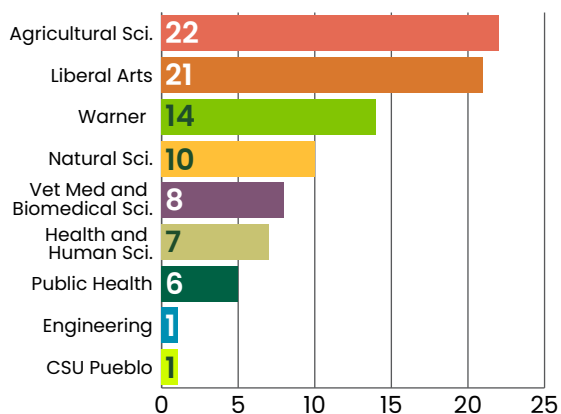
The CSU Extension Internship Program was started in 2018 following a request from Extension leadership to find opportunities to facilitate enhanced connections between campus and field, as well as students and Extension. In addition, there was a call to ensure that applied research conducted by CSU faculty better met the needs of Colorado stakeholders and that Extension better communicated research opportunities.

The CSU Extension Internship Program is different from other internship programs at CSU. Internships are based in Colorado, include applied research, significant time in the field and support stakeholder engagement with regional or county-based Extension specialists. In addition to specific internship goals, interns, from any college at CSU, glean an understanding of the complexities of working across state, county, and university constructs and how to marry varying perspectives toward a common goal. Extension mentors benefit from the program through enhanced connections to campus, including facilitating better relationships with faculty on issues important to Coloradans.

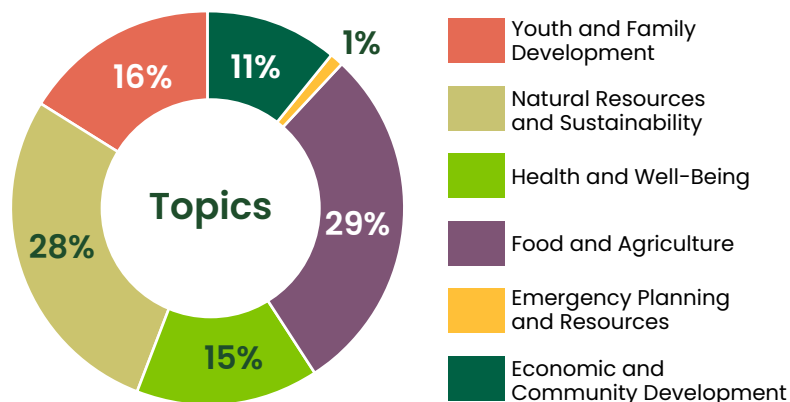
Program Growth by the Numbers

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
11 paid internships	24 paid internships	32 paid internships	59 paid internships	80 paid internships	89 paid internships
3 colleges	6 colleges	6 colleges	6 colleges	7 colleges	8 colleges + CSU Pueblo
	150 applicants	213 applicants	282 applicants	345 applicants	573 applicants

2023 Intern Home Colleges



2023 Internship Topic Areas





Intern Familiarity with Extension Prior to Internship

- 35%** Not Familiar at All
- 15%** Slightly Familiar
- 16%** Moderately Familiar
- 13%** Very Familiar
- 3%** Extremely Familiar

Annual Post-Internship Evaluation Highlights

Interns

- 94%** of interns would recommend this internship to a friend.
- 85%** of interns are now more likely to consider a career in Extension or recommend a career in Extension to a friend.
- 94%** of interns now have a better understanding of how community needs can be used to formulate a research question.
- 100%** of interns now have a better understanding of how research can be applied in communities.
- 85%** of interns now have a better understanding of how to engage stakeholders in research.

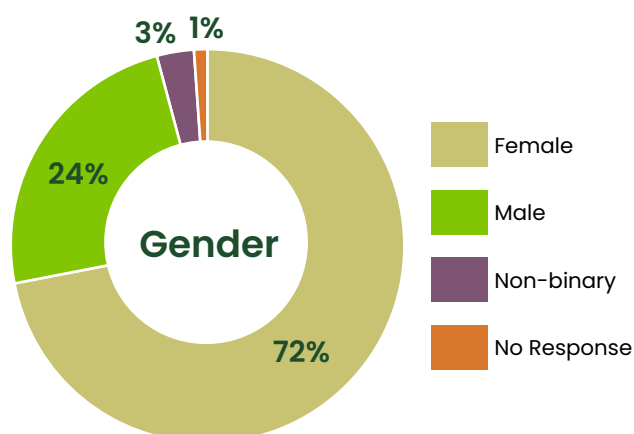
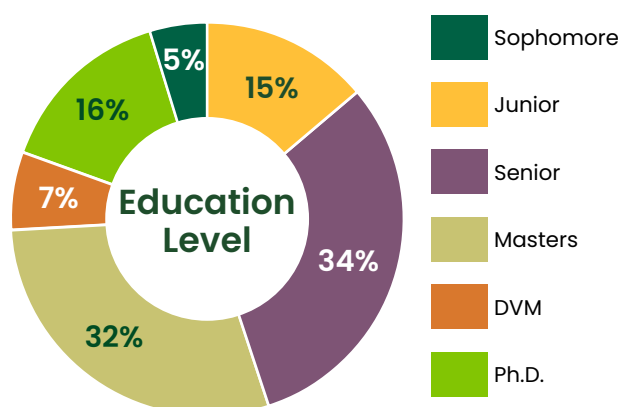
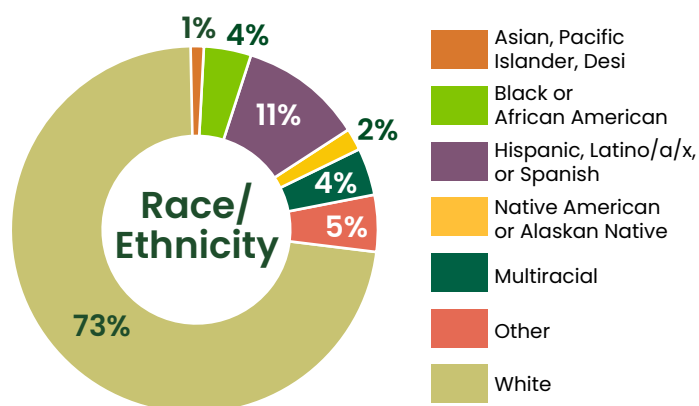
Mentors (Faculty)

- 87%** of Faculty Mentors increasingly see value in engaging stakeholders in research.
- 75%** of Faculty Mentors now better understand how research can be applied in communities.
- 87%** of Faculty Mentors feel more connected to agents in the field.
- 96%** of Faculty Mentors recommend participating in the CSU Summer Extension Internship program to other faculty members and Extension personnel.
- 95%** of Faculty Mentors are likely to participate in the CSU Summer Extension Internship program again.

Mentors (Extension)

- 80%** of Extension Mentors increasingly see value in engaging stakeholders in research.
- 64%** of Extension Mentors feel more connected to campus and to other agents in the field.
- 96%** of Extension Mentors recommend participating in the CSU Summer Extension Internship program to other faculty members and Extension personnel.
- 85%** of Extension Mentors are likely to participate in the CSU Summer Extension Internship program again.

Intern Demographics



What Participants Say

"The entire process was memorable. I am incredibly lucky to have gotten such a fortuitous opportunity, where I got experience with Extension, as well as with a foundation. My field work portion was wonderful, empowering, and so was the poster session!"

– 2023 Summer Intern

"The best part was building community with the participants in the program, volunteers, and with the program coordinator. It was a wonderful experience."

–2023 Summer Intern

"I love the program and the relationships I have been able to develop with Extension Agents. I get to see some of the incredible work they are doing and share my own work with them."

– 2023 CSU Faculty Mentor

"It was an incredible experience all around. I learned a lot and got a variety of new skills to put on my resume."

– 2023 Summer Intern

"Thank you so much for this opportunity – we had the absolute best intern and moved forward in so many new ways because of her efforts!"

– 2023 CSU Faculty Mentor

"This was a wonderful opportunity. We also were fortunate to find such a gem of an intern. The work she did was so important and helpful to our local program research, community, and state outreach."

– 2023 Extension Mentor

"Please keep this program going and thanks for all of your efforts! I love that it's focused on Extension at the county (or regional) level and for the collaborations in place."

–2023 Extension Mentor

The Internship program was funded by:

- College of Agricultural Sciences
- Walter Scott, Jr. College of Engineering
- College of Health and Human Sciences
- College of Liberal Arts
- College of Natural Sciences
- College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
- Warner College of Natural Resources
- Office of Engagement and Extension
- Office of the Vice President for Research
- Office of the Provost
- Internship Mentors

