

DUCHESNE CENTER

Manhattanville College | Founders G-33
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www.mville.edu/DUCHESNE/NYSHRI.htm

NYS Human Rights Initiative: Defining Human Rights in the State of New York

Overview

Under the New York State Executive Law § 293 the New York State Division of Human Rights was established. Further, under General Municipal Law § 239 (o), municipalities including villages, towns, cities and counties are authorized to establish their own human rights commissions and human rights additional to that of the State as long as the laws are increased, but do not decrease the protections provided by the State law.



Although these laws provide what appears to be a solid foundation upon which the State and municipal governments may endeavor to protect human rights, many problems exist with the system. Foremost, the Municipal Law permit municipalities to establish their own human rights commissions but does not provide a standard structure for the commissions regarding: (1) staff, (2) preventative and enforcement programs, (3) penalties for law violations, (4) information-sharing and collaboration between municipal commission and/or the State Division of Human Rights.

This project will address these issues by conducting research through contact with every municipality with the State of New York to obtain information regarding the existence or lack thereof of a human rights commission within each municipality. The data collected will be simultaneously used for the development of an online database and an analysis of functionality. Further analysis will allow a report to present findings to interest holders including governmental bodies, civic association and not-for-profits.

Goals & Objectives

Goals:

- Integrate what students are learning in the classroom with experiential learning and service outside of the classroom.
- Have students reflect with other students on their experience and the academic links they discover in the classroom and through their service.
- Have students develop their service skills while exploring the underlying issues that face the agencies and clients they serve.

This project endeavors to achieve two major objectives:

1. The compilation of information from municipalities across the State of New York will permit the establishment of an on-line database, which will provide the public with information pertaining to human rights laws and commissions throughout the State of New York.
2. The data gathered will also be analyzed to determine what municipal human rights commissions exist throughout the State of New York, the intricacies of how they function, as well as if and how the overall state-wide system can be improved. A report will be produced and presented to various interest holders including governmental, civic and not-for-profit entities.

Highlights & Benefits

- All Majors Welcome!!
- Earn 6 academic credits (Spring 2007 & Fall 2007)
- Build your co-curricular resume by completing 120 service learning hours each semester
- Interact and study with faculty and students from PACE Law School and Ramapo College of New Jersey

Internship Requirements

The Student Intern will:

- Complete 120 hours of service at a service site researched by the student and approved by the Duchesne Center,
- Attend the required orientation and participate in mid- and end-term semester reflection sessions with other Duchesne sponsored service-learners and volunteers, and
- Submit a final project or reflection paper/project approved by the Internship Advisor (Duchesne Center) and Internship Coordinator (James Hyer, Esquire).

The Internship Advisor will:

- Schedule orientation meetings for all participating students and register students for the internship with the Registrar's Office.
- Visit students on site and monitor their progress through a mid- and end-semester report, reflection submissions and gatherings, and online reporting of hours;

The Internship Coordinator is responsible for:

- Approving the group projects and individual placements;
- Assisting the students in setting goals and objectives for the service project that fit the goals and objectives of the course;
- Leading a reflection session with all of the students involved in the Option;
- Planning the final project with the students;
- Reading and commenting on the final reports; and
- Submitting the final grade.

Grade Distribution:

Students receive a ? (pass/fail or letter) grade. Grades are determined in the following way: Field Service - 40%; Reflection Journal – 10%; End-semester reflection – 10%; Final research paper – 40%.

Reflection Journal Guidelines

Reflect upon your service and describe how your service experiences have affected you throughout the semester. Reflect upon your development, and write about insights personally gained as well as those shared with your clients.

The essay should be one page per week, double-spaced, and using 12pt Times New Roman font. Include your name and Manhattanville ID number on the cover/first page.

Contact Information

Internship Advisor

Judie Hartmann, Assistant Director
Duchesne Center, Founders G-33
Main: (914) 323-5468
URL: www.mville.edu/Duchesne/NYSRI.htm

Internship Coordinator

James L. Hyer, Attorney-At-Law
Email address

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NYS Human Rights Initiative - 2007 Calendar

The Human Rights Internship will proceed according to the special events, dates and deadlines specified in the calendar below. Please see the Internship Advisor regarding any concerns or questions you may have.

MONTH	ACTION
January	16 th – First Day of Spring Classes 23 rd – Add/Drop Deadline 29th – NYSHRI APPLICATION DEADLINE
February	3rd – NYSHRI ORIENTATION 6 th – Log Hours Online
March	6 th – Log Hours Online 12 th –16 th – Spring Break 19 th – Mid-semester Progress Reports mailed to campus address 21 st – Mid-semester Reflection Gathering
April	3 rd – Log Hours Online 11 th – Duchesne Recognition Dinner
May	8 th – Grades Reported
June	Summer Break
July	Summer Break

