

DW-ASSIST
Drinking Water Assistance Center
DrinkingWater@umass.edu

Water Professional Partnership Internship Program

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-professional-partnership-internship-program>

Information for Prospective Interns

MassDEP Drinking Water Program (DWP), in partnership with the University of Massachusetts – Amherst (UMass), has developed a Water Professional Partnership (WPP) Internship Program. The purpose of the internship program is to connect drinking water organizations, specifically water utilities, with interns who are interested in a career in the industry. Internships are flexible and can be at any time of year and for any duration based on the schedule of the host organization and the intern. Internships can also cover a wide range of activities, such as operations, technical, billing/finances, laboratory, and communications, depending on the needs of the water utility.

Internship opportunities vary widely and depend on the needs of the organization. Some internship opportunities may require long periods of standing/walking, heavy lifting, climbing ladders, or other strenuous activity. Some internship opportunities may require long periods of sitting or standing at a desk with primarily computer-based activities. If accepted, interns will be placed as closely as possible with an internship that meets their needs and interests.

Minimum Qualifications

Interns should meet as many of the minimum qualifications as possible.

- Must be enrolled in or have graduated from high school, a GED program, or a college/university.
- Interest in the science and management of drinking water.
- Ability to read, write, and effectively communicate in English.
- Basic computer skills including data entry, Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Relevant coursework, demonstrated knowledge, and/or interest in math, chemistry, environmental science, and/or computer science.
- **Must have must have a valid driver's license or reliable transportation to and from work site.**
- Must be able to physically work in Massachusetts for the duration of the internship.
- Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces encouraged to apply

Key Considerations

The WPP Internship Program is open to individuals who are interested in a career in drinking water. Individuals can be students, recent graduates, or adults looking for a career change. Internships will be at water utilities and can cover a wide range of activities depending on the needs of the utility.

- **Time and Duration of Internship:** Internships can be flexible in terms of time of year, duration, and work schedule. These details can be coordinated between the host organization and prospective intern. Prospective interns should specify if they have time constraints (e.g. school schedule) that would impact the time commitment they have for an internship.
- **Location:** All internships are in-person at water utilities. Water utilities are located in towns throughout the state. DWP/UMass will take location into account when matching prospective interns with host organizations. Interns may end up being a 30–45-minute drive from the utility they are matched with. Additionally, interns may have to travel between job sites as part of their internship.

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- **Pay:** DWP/UMass can fund three to five interns in a calendar year. The pay range is typically \$15-28 per hour depending on the intern's experience and the time/duration of the internship. Interns are hired by UMass and become UMass employees.
- **Hiring Process:** DWP/UMass interviews prospective interns before coordinating an interview between the water utility and the prospective intern. Some water utilities may have more detailed hiring processes that may take longer to complete.
- **Transportation:** Interns will be required to coordinate transportation between their homes and their workplace. Some utilities require interns to have a driver's license and a personal vehicle for transportation between job sites.

Internship Process

The following list details the DWP/UMass process for identifying interns and matching them with host organizations (i.e. water utilities).

1. Interested interns should fill out the WPP Internship Program Application and provide all supporting material. The Internship Program Application can be filled out at <https://forms.office.com/g/HttaTA3eec> or at the QR code below. Resumes and letters of recommendation should be sent to drinkingwater@umass.edu.
2. DWP/UMass will interview the prospective intern to learn about their experience and interest in the WPP Internship Program. DWP/UMass also collects logistical information from the prospective intern, such as availability and location.
3. DWP/UMass will reach out to the prospective intern if there is a water utility that would be a good match for the intern's experience and schedule. DWP/UMass will coordinate an interview between the prospective intern and the water utility and may participate in the interview if requested by the utility.
4. Once the utility approves of an intern, DWP/UMass hires the intern via UMass and coordinates schedule, pay, and other logistics. The water utility may have other internal processes that must be completed.
5. Once all hiring logistics are complete, the intern will begin working at the water utility at the identified start date.

For More Information:



For the Internship Application:

