URBANA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Urbana Police Department (UPD) Crime Analyst accepts one student intern per semester. The internship program is intended to allow students to apply classroom knowledge to a real-world setting under guidance of a practitioner. This structured work experience complements academic studies to build practical skills. Furthermore, interns will learn about the structure and function of police departments through ride-alongs and day-to-day interactions with officers and civilian staff.

This internship program is in the Services Division and directed by the Crime Analyst. There are opportunities for students across academic disciplines to analyze different aspects of data collected by UPD. Interns may be asked to assist with ad hoc requests; however, the focus will be on a project chosen by the intern under the advisement of faculty and the Crime Analyst.

While the internships are unpaid, UPD is willing to collaborate with U of I faculty if there is potential for earning academic credit. Furthermore, interns may have the opportunity to use UPD data for capstone projects.

Students from anthropology, criminology, geography & geographic information science, political science, urban planning, sociology, statistics & quantitative methods in the social sciences, and other departments are encouraged to apply.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Effective written and verbal communication skills
- Punctual attendance
- Strong computer skills
- Detail oriented
- Independent worker
- Innovative thinker
- Must pass a criminal history background check

POTENTIAL INTERNSHIP PROJECTS:

UPD collects quantitative data, including addresses, at every interaction and activity that is recorded, including: 911 calls for service, proactive police activity, incidents resulting in police reports, and others. This provides an enormous amount of data points that can be examined and analyzed. Furthermore, qualitative information is recorded in the narrative section of police reports. Potential projects for a social science intern include, but are not limited to:

- In-depth report detailing one type of crime (e.g., numbers relative to other crimes, change over time, repeat offenders/locations, temporal analysis, proactive or reactive police involvement, police enforcement action, evidence-based suggestions to address the problem)
- Demographics (e.g., age, race, gender, etc.) across police contacts (enforcement actions, field interviews, victims of crime)
- "Funnel" of criminal justice involvement by crime – official police involvement (call for service) to police enforcement action to case outcomes
- Crisis Intervention Team analysis (e.g., symptoms displayed, law enforcement response, crisis team response, case disposition, historical/repeat contacts with individuals in mental health crises, etc.)

The inherent geographical component of crime is crucial for understanding criminal and police activity Urbana, and how best to tackle it. UPD recently purchased licenses for ArcGIS, Spatial Analyst, and BCS Crime Analysis Tools (a third-party extension), and has spent significant time cleaning and geocoding address data. This will be a mutually beneficial arrangement to build capacity within UPD to conduct advanced spatial statistics. While this is not an exhaustive list, potential projects for a GIS intern include:

- Mapping hot spots
  - Crime (e.g., as a whole, different types of crime, crimes in public vs. private locations, crimes by seriousness, identification of temporal and geospatial patterns, near-repeat analysis for property crime, etc.)
  - Police activity (e.g., by type, temporal and geospatial patterns, compared to crime, etc.)
- Identifying repeat locations of citizen-initiated calls for service
  - Examining call type for patterns
  - Examining history of calls at that location
- Mapping locations of police contacts with potentially vulnerable individuals
  - Compared to locations of community resources and service providers
- Comparing locations of police and crime activity with neighborhood characteristics (e.g., population density, population mobility, demographics, etc.)