

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
November 18-19, 2024
Chicago, Illinois**

Standards Committee: Approval of Proposal to Revise *Best Practices for Internships as a Component of Graduate Archival Education* by the Graduate Archival Education Subcommittee

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BACKGROUND

The Graduate Archival Education Subcommittee (GAES) of the Committee on Education has responsibility for maintenance of the *Best Practices for Internships as a Component of Graduate Archival Education*. GAES has submitted a proposal to revise these best practices, which have never gone through a revision process.

The *Best Practices for Internships as a Component of Graduate Archival Education* is a set of suggested guidelines for graduate students, archival educators, and archivists serving as intern supervisors. Sections include recommendations for the nature of work, compensation, agreements, supervisor responsibilities, communication, and evaluations. The standard currently lives on the SAA Standards Portal.

The *Best Practices for Internships as a Component of Graduate Archival Education* were first drafted in 2008 by a subgroup of the SAA Council and based on *Best Practices in Public History: Public History Internships*, prepared by the National Council on Public History Curriculum and Training Committee. The *Best Practices for Internships as a Component of Graduate Archival Education* were first approved as a standard by the SAA Council in 2014 and has been due for revision since 2017.

DISCUSSION

Revision of the *Best Practices for Internships as a Component of Graduate Archival Education* is long overdue. Given that GAES is now assigned to manage the *Best Practices* and in a position to provide a much-needed update (though GAES was not the group that originally created the standard), it makes sense to support this revision. It will update the best practices and prevent them from falling out of relevance going forward.

While currently only applicable to graduate student internships, GAES is proposing a revision that would make the standard more broadly applicable to all archival internships

(and not just those held by graduate students). This would increase the usefulness of the guidelines to a range of institutions and archival settings. GAES proposes to complete the revision and submit to SAA's Standards Committee by May 2025.

GAES is committed to consulting with the following groups in the process of revision:

- Committee on Education
- Archival Worker Labor Task Force
- Accessibility and Disability Section
- Archival Educators Section
- Archives Management Section
- Archivists and Archives of Color Section
- Collection Management Section
- Diverse Sexuality and Gender Section
- Diversity Committee
- Independent Archivists Section
- Solo Archivists Section
- Students and New Professionals (SNAP) Section
- Women Archivists Section
- College and University Archives Section

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the SAA Council approves the proposal from the Graduate Archival Education Subcommittee to revise the *Best Practices for Internships as a Component of Graduate Archival Education*.

Support Statement:

Revision of the *Best Practices for Internships* will provide a needed update to the standard, bringing them in line with recent directions in archival practice and theory. The revision will also place the *Best Practices* on a pathway to long-term maintenance and collaboration on future revisions.

Impact on Strategic Priorities:

SAA Council's approval of the *Best Practices for Internships as a Component of Graduate Archival Education* is consistent with Strategic Priorities 2.2 and 3.1:

2.2 Provide content, via education and publications, that reflects the latest thinking and best practices in the field.

3.1. Identify the need for new standards, guidelines, and best practices and lead or participate in their development.

Fiscal Impact:

None

