

The Pathways Program

Student Internship Opportunities with the
Natural Resources Conservation Service in Wisconsin



The Pathways Program offers a clear path of opportunity with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in meeting our mission of *Helping People Help the Land*. Students from high school through post-graduate school can apply to participate in the available programs.

The Internship Program

The Pathways Program is targeted at current students. If you're a student in high school, college, trade school or other qualifying educational institution, you may be eligible. This program offers paid opportunities to work at an NRCS office and explore a federal career in natural resources while completing your education. Students enrolled in college as a Freshman or Sophomore are ideal candidates for the program; allowing 2–3 years in school to complete 640 hours worked, which is part of the internship requirement.

Interns have the flexibility of working either part- or full-time. Intern jobs will be related to your academic career goals and your field of study. Students who successfully complete the program may be eligible for conversion to a permanent job with the NRCS.

When & How to Apply

NRCS Wisconsin hires Pathways Interns typically in the fall/early winter before the summer a student would start their internship position. To have position announcements emailed directly to you, set up a profile on www.usajobs.gov and select your preferences for job notifications through the Saved Searches option by entering the keyword "Pathways" and the location "Wisconsin." Review the factsheet ***Applying for a Federal Job*** for more details.

Once Pathways Internship positions are announced, the window to apply is only open for five business days. Having your profile set up and ready, while also receiving job notifications through email, is crucial in finding Pathways position announcements when they open and applying in a timely manner.

Students Benefits

The Pathways Internship Program has many benefits for students, including:

- 1) Real-world experience working in multiple NRCS offices and counties.
- 2) Experience working in the field with customers on unique landscapes.
- 3) Diverse experience to add to your resume.
- 4) Learning from NRCS mentors.
- 5) Pay and a housing stipend may be provided.
- 6) Professional relationship building and networking.
- 7) Hands-on natural resources skill building.
- 8) The potential for a full-time job after completion,
- 9) A truly unique, fun experience.
- 10) And so much more!

NRCS Wisconsin Pathways Internship Program

Pathways Internship positions can set students up for careers in the natural resources field, including:

Agronomy

Archeology

Biology

Engineering

Forestry

Geology

Rangeland Management

Soil Conservation

Soil Science

Urban Conservation

Wildlife Biology



Student Successes



Brittany Ehlen is an NRCS-Wisconsin Civil Engineering Pathways Intern and also an NRCS Earth Team Volunteer. She wanted to work with NRCS because of her passion for agriculture and working in the field. "It's a really nice balance between being out in the field and office work," explains Ehlen. As a Pathways Intern, Brittany visits landowners, construction and work sites, participates in surveying, and completes engineering and design work. Brittany was able to work with NRCS in seven different counties across the state during her first summer as a Pathways Intern.



Brady Goettl is an NRCS-Wisconsin Soil Conservation Pathways Intern. He wanted to work with NRCS because it gives him the ability to work directly with farmers while making a positive impact on our environment. As a Pathways Intern, Brady completed soil conservation work, surveying, site and landowner visits, conservation practice spot checks, and more. "I really enjoy working with various NRCS field and area staff; it's helped me expand my knowledge and expertise in conservation," explains Goettl. Brady was able to work with NRCS in two counties across the state during his first summer as a Pathways Intern.

Completion and Conversion

Interns may be converted to a permanent NRCS position within 120 days of successfully completing the program.

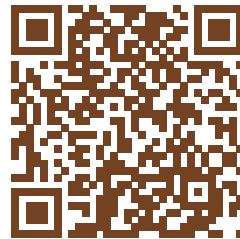
To be eligible for conversion, interns must:

- Complete at least 640 hours of work experience acquired through the internship program
- Complete their degree or certificate requirements
- Meet qualification standards for the position to which the intern will be converted
- Meet agency-specific requirements as specified in unique NRCS Participant's Agreements
- And perform their job successfully.

More Information

Other Pathways Program opportunities are available, including the Recent Graduates Program and the Presidential Management Fellows Program. For more information about those programs, go to: www.usajobs.gov/studentsandgrads

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or go to
www.nrcs.usda.gov/wi/careers-volunteers
for more information
about NRCS Wisconsin
internships, careers, &
volunteer opportunities.

