

Student Success in the IPHY Internship for Credit Program

Jia Shi, Nicole Stob, and Maureen Floriano



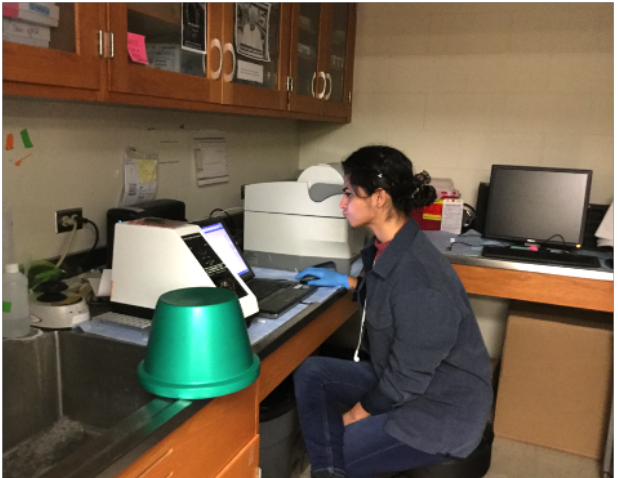
Integrative Physiology
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

INTRODUCTION

- Internships provide hands-on learning and skills improvement¹.
- Since 2019, we:
 - Streamlined the application process
 - Expanded internship types
 - Increased employment opportunities for students².
- Paid internships count for credit



Internships in Action



Internships in Action

METHODS

- Dr. Jia Shi oversees the internship for Credit program.
- Find internships through:
 - A list of previous internships
 - Emails, Handshake, networking, and the Internship and Research Opportunities (IROF) Fair.
- Continuing Education offers reduced tuition for summer internships, benefiting disadvantaged students.



Internship and Research Opportunities Fair

RESULTS

The IPHY department has **over 200 internship opportunities**. Scan the QR code below for current openings.

Program Activities and Outcomes

- Increased satisfaction with the internship opportunities: 44% in 2024 (n=155) as compared to 28% in 2018 (n=437)
- Enrollment Trends (**Table 1**):
 - IPHY 2910 & IPHY 4930 increasing post-Covid pandemic; IPHY 4940 (clinical internship) remains low.
 - New: IPHY 4950 an 8-week long global summer internship with CU Career Services
- Internship and Research Opportunity (IROF) Fair Success:
 - Each year the number of participating organizations has increased: 22 in 2022, 25 in 2023, and 33 in 2024.
 - Student attendance has also steadily increased from 176 in 2022 to 206 in 2023 and 300 in 2024 (**Figure 1**)
- Career Impact:
 - Many students have transitioned from internships to jobs.
 - Boulder Medical Center example:
 - 5-year partnership → 17 interns (2024)
 - 28 post-graduation hires in medical assistant roles (2024)
- Some positive student interns' comments are below:
 - "I am thankful for this experience for not only giving me a glimpse into the work and life of an anesthesiologist but also for helping me to begin putting what I have learned from my IPHY classes into real-life medical scenarios..."
 - "This internship is actually the reason why I am majoring in IPHY to begin with... I decided to add IPHY as a second major due to my interest in the course work and its correlation with medicine. This internship has led me to not only gain experience in emergency medicine, but it has widened my educational experience at Boulder immeasurably."
- Internship supervisors' positive evaluation of our interns (**Figure 2**)



Students Survey Opportunities at the IROF

Table 1: IPHY Internship Enrollment Numbers: 2019-2024
Note that the number of students enrolled in the internship for credit program may not reflect the total number of student interns as some students elect not to receive academic credits.

Semester	IPHY 2910	IPHY 4930	IPHY 4940	IPHY 4950
Spring 19	3	50	9	NA
Summer 19	2	14	0	4
Fall 19	7	52	8	NA
Spring 20	4	50	9	NA
Summer 20	1	4	0	0
Fall 20	6	21	3	NA
Spring 21	6	21	2	NA
Summer 21	0	18	1	2
Fall 21	7	31	3	NA
Spring 22	4	36	5	NA
Summer 22	7	8	1	2
Fall 22	48	33	0	NA
Spring 23	7	38	1	NA
Summer 23	1	14	0	2
Fall 23	6	41	1	NA
Spring 24	7	43	4	NA
Summer 24	5	12	1	2
Fall 24	10	39	1	NA

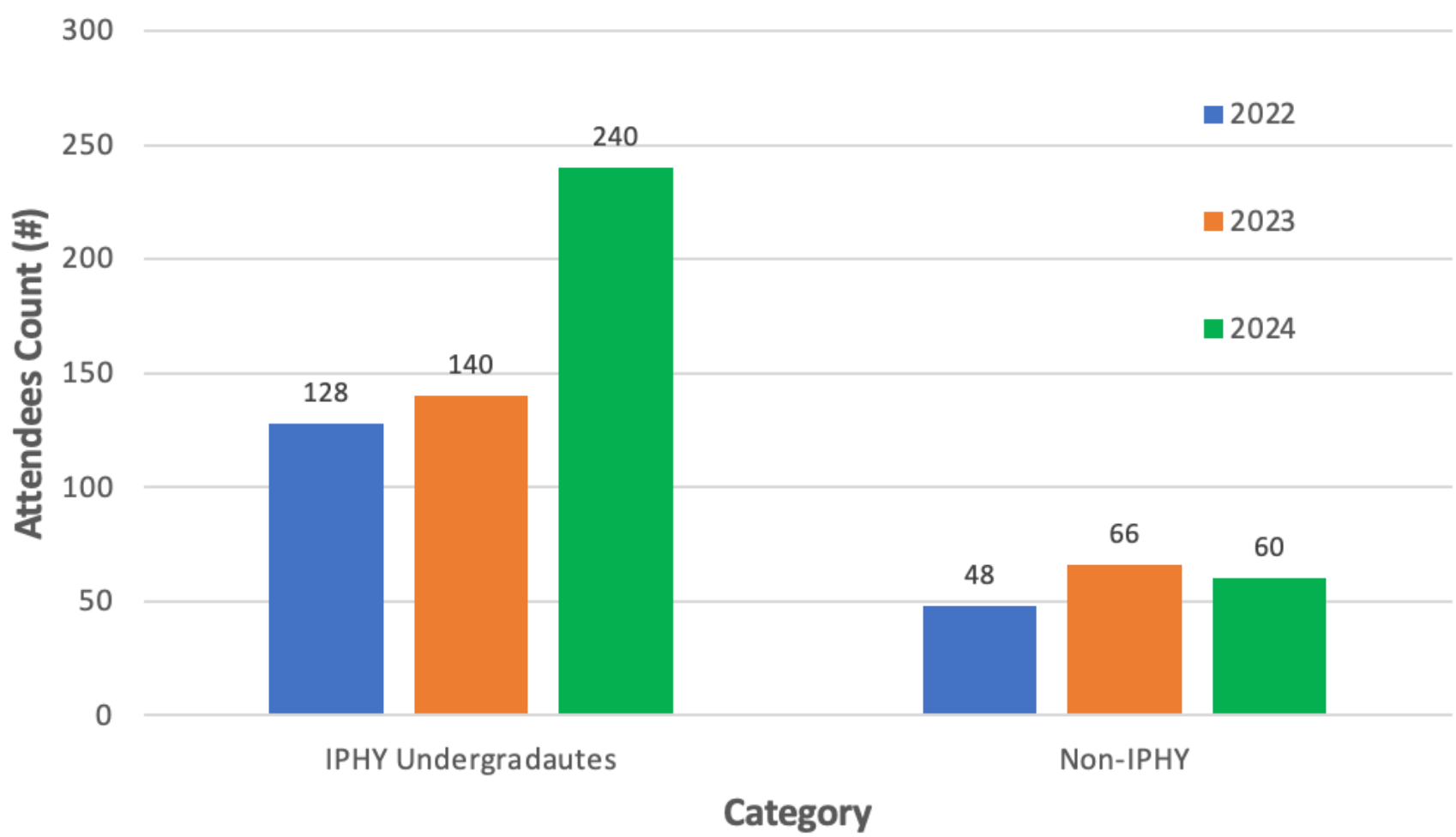


Figure 1. Data represent the number of attendees as IPHY undergraduate students and non-IPHY students and others in three consecutive Internship and Research Opportunities Fair (IROF). For years of 2022, 2023, and 2024, a total of 22, 25, and 33 groups attended IROF respectively. These groups represent opportunities in research, clinical work, and programs in the IPHY department.

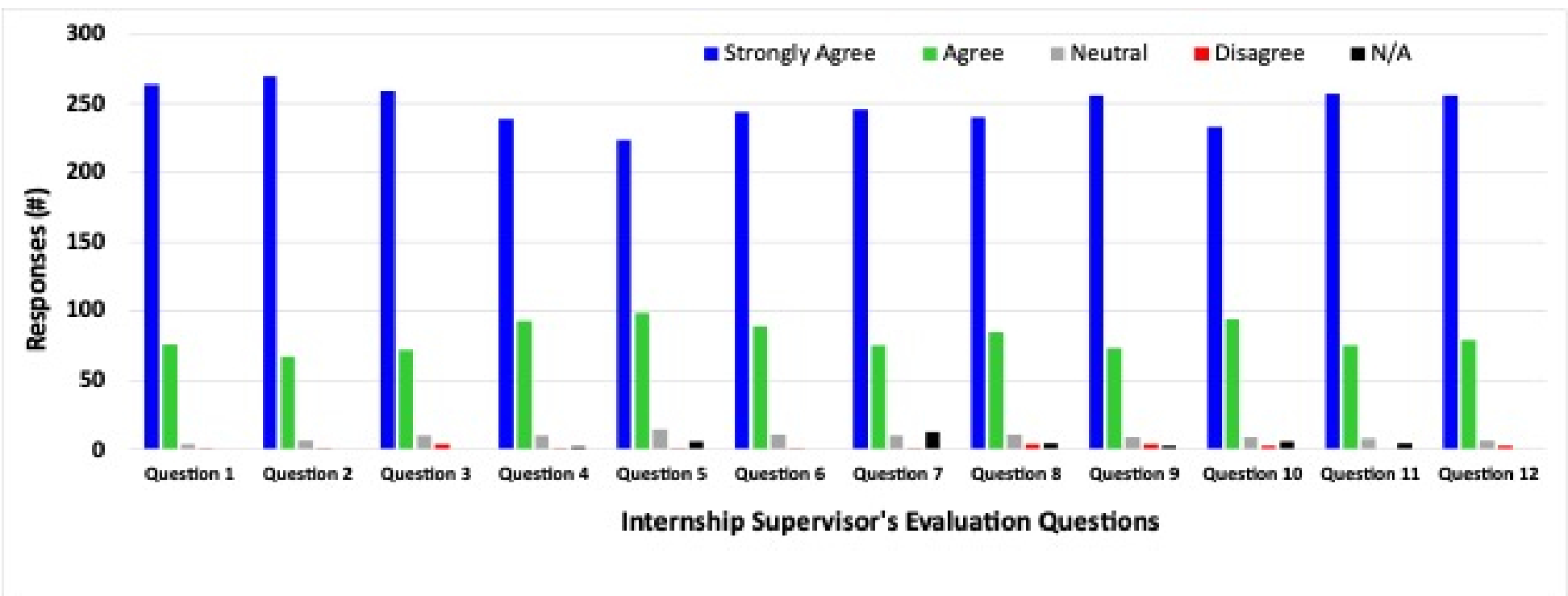


Figure 2. Internship supervisors evaluation. Data from 12 semesters plus summer terms (2019-2024). 345 internship supervisors' evaluations are included here. The 12 questions are:
1. The student completed assigned tasks on time; 2. The student was dependable and responsible; 3. The student showed initiative; 4. The student showed good judgment; 5. The student exhibited problem-solving skills; 6. The student was a quick learner; 7. The student communicated well with patients/clients; 8. The student communicated well with peers; 9. The student communicated well with supervisors; 10. The student accepted criticism and suggestions; 11. The student always dressed appropriately and professionally; 12. The student was always professional.

CONCLUSION

Over the past 5 years, we have:

- Expanded internship opportunities.
- Simplified the application process.
- Created a dedicated management team.
- Enhanced student-employer connections.
- Student internship participation has recovered to close to pre-pandemic levels with the expectation that it will continue to grow.

Future Goals:

- Continue expanding institutional partnerships
- Further streamline the process
- More students gaining real-world experience!

References:

1. Gerard Callahan and Cunthia Benzing (2004). Assessing the role of internships in the career-oriented employment of graduating college students. *Education & Training* 46(2), 82-89
2. Caroline D'Abate (2010). Developmental interactions for business students: Do they make a difference? *Journal of Leadership & Organizational Studies*. 17(2), 143-155.

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Scan to see the IPHY approved internship list.