**FY2024 Agricultural Education Pre-Service Internship Program Application**

**Program Summary:**The Agricultural Education Pre-Service Internship Program is designed to recruit and retain agricultural educators in Illinois by developing key technical skills of pre-service teachers through work-based learning experiences. Richland Community College is pleased to have been selected by the Illinois State Board of Education to implement the Agricultural Education Pre-Service Internship Program.

**Internship Timeline and Expectations:**The interns selected will complete a 9-week internship experience starting June 3, 2024 and ending August 1, 2024. Candidates selected for the pre-service internship program may be subject to background check.

The selected interns will participate in six weeks of internship experiences as a cohort group. The group experience will be finalized based on selected applicant needs. Additionally, selected applicants will complete three weeks of individualized workplace experiences. The selection of individualized workplace experiences will be based on each candidate’s strengths and weaknesses and through consultation with the program’s coordinator.

Pre-service agriculture teachers selected for the grant program will receive a $7500 stipend (which is subject to taxes). A per diem for lodging, mileage, meals, and incidentals will also be provided.

**Eligibility and Selection Process:**Applicants must be pursuing a bachelor’s degree with Agricultural Education as a declared major (December 2024 anticipated graduation date or after).

Selection priority will be granted to applicants whom are closest to the completion of an Agricultural Education bachelor’s degree and to those who have not completed the internship previously.

A selection committee will review applications and successful candidates will be notified prior to January 5th.

**Application Items and Due Date:**

To apply, candidates should send the following to jsmithers@richland.edu or complete it via this Google Form (<https://forms.gle/RGusHJCt8M1e2g5Z7> ) prior to December 20, 2023

* Cover Letter
* Resume
* References
* 1 Letter of Recommendation by an individual involved in Agricultural Education
* Completed Application

**Program Coordinator:**

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact:

Jess Smithers, Director of Agricultural Programs

Richland Community College

One College Park, Decatur, IL 62521

217-875-7211 ext. 6223 or Text 217-430-3920

jsmithers@richland.edu

**FY2024 Agricultural Education Pre-Service Internship Program Application**

Name:  
Mailing Address:  
Phone Number:  
Email Address:  
College/University Attending Currently:  
Major:  
Anticipated Bachelor’s Degree Graduation Date:

1. Summarize your involvement and experiences in each of the three-circles of Agricultural Education.
   1. Classroom Instruction
   2. FFA
   3. Supervised Agricultural Experience
2. Describe your career goals and outline what you expect to gain from the internship that will benefit you as a future agricultural educator?
3. What is your greatest strength that will serve you well as an agricultural educator?
4. What is your greatest weakness that you’d like to improve upon prior to starting your career as an agricultural educator?
5. Do you anticipate any potential conflicts which would impact your ability to participate in any aspect of the internship? If so, describe the potential conflict and how it may impact your participation in the internship.
6. I intend to continue my pursuit of a bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Education and fully expect to become a high school agricultural teacher in the near future.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

**Outline your self-assessed strengths and weaknesses as it relates to preparation for agriculture teaching.**

1. I am confident in my abilities to successfully and effectively teach **agricultural business management** related topics.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. I have real-world work experience in the area of **agricultural business management** that will serve me well as an agricultural educator.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. Briefly describe your prior real-world work experience in the area of **agricultural business management**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I am confident in my abilities to successfully and effectively teach **animal and veterinary science** related topics.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. I have real-world work experience in the area of **animal and veterinary science** that will serve me well as an agricultural educator.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. Briefly describe your prior real-world work experience in the area of **animal and veterinary science**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I am confident in my abilities to successfully and effectively teach **agricultural communications** related topics.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. I have real-world work experience in the area of **agricultural communications** that will serve me well as an agricultural educator.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. Briefly describe your prior real-world work experience in the area of **agricultural communications**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I am confident in my abilities to successfully and effectively teach **crop science** related topics.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. I have real-world work experience in the area of **crop science** that will serve me well as an agricultural educator.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. Briefly describe your prior real-world work experience in the area of **crop science**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I am confident in my abilities to successfully and effectively teach **food science** related topics.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. I have real-world work experience in the area of **food science** that will serve me well as an agricultural educator.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. Briefly describe your prior real-world work experience in the area of **food science**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I am confident in my abilities to successfully and effectively teach **horticulture** related topics.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. I have real-world work experience in the area of **horticulture** that will serve me well as an agricultural educator.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. Briefly describe your prior real-world work experience in the area of **horticulture**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I am confident in my abilities to successfully and effectively teach **natural resources / environmental science** related topics.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. I have real-world work experience in the area of **natural resources / environmental science** that will serve me well as an agricultural educator.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. Briefly describe your prior real-world work experience in the area of **natural resources / environmental science**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I am confident in my abilities to successfully and effectively teach **power, structural, and technical systems – welding** related topics.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. I have real-world work experience in the area of **power, structural, and technical systems – welding** that will serve me well as an agricultural educator.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. Briefly describe your prior real-world work experience in the area of **power, structural, and technical systems – welding**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I am confident in my abilities to successfully and effectively teach **power, structural, and technical systems – construction / carpentry** related topics.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. I have real-world work experience in the area of **power, structural, and technical systems – construction / carpentry** that will serve me well as an agricultural educator.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. Briefly describe your prior real-world work experience in the area of **power, structural, and technical systems – construction / carpentry**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I am confident in my abilities to successfully and effectively teach **power, structural, and technical systems – small engines** related topics.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. I have real-world work experience in the area of **power, structural, and technical systems – small engines** that will serve me well as an agricultural educator.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. Briefly describe your prior real-world work experience in the area of **power, structural, and technical systems – small engines**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I am confident in my abilities to successfully and effectively teach **power, structural, and technical systems – electricity** related topics.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. I have real-world work experience in the area of **power, structural, and technical systems – electricity** that will serve me well as an agricultural educator.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. Briefly describe your prior real-world work experience in the area of **power, structural, and technical systems – electricity**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. I am confident in my abilities to successfully and effectively teach **power, structural, and technical systems – agricultural technology** related topics.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. I have real-world work experience in the area of **power, structural, and technical systems – agricultural technology** that will serve me well as an agricultural educator.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

1 2 3 4 5

1. Briefly describe your prior real-world work experience in the area of **power, structural, and technical systems – agricultural technology**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Agricultural Education Pre-Service Internship Program Application Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Excellent  (10-8) | Average  (7-4) | Weak  (3-0) | Score |
| **Cover Letter** | Cover letter is well-written and free of errors. | Cover letter is well-written but more attention to proofing and clarity is needed. | Cover letter is complete but contains multiple errors in grammar and spelling. |  |
| **Resume** | Resume is well-written, eye-appealing, and free of errors. | Resume is well-written but more attention to proofing and clarity is needed. | Resume is complete but contains multiple errors in grammar and spelling. |  |
| **Letter of Recommendation** | The letter of recommendation consists of a strong recommendation from an individual working in Agricultural Education. | A letter of recommendation is received from an individual working in Agricultural Education. | A letter of recommendation is not received or the letter is from an individual that doesn’t work in Agricultural Education. |  |
| **Questions 1-5** | The responses to the questions are well-written with detailed and thoughtful answers. | The responses to the questions are well-written but needed to be more complete, focused, and in-depth. | The responses to the questions are poorly written, doesn’t completely answer the questions, and demonstrated a lack of effort. |  |
| **Needs Assessment: Strengths and Weaknesses** | The responses to the questions are complete and work experiences are described thoroughly. | The responses to the questions are complete but the work experiences need to be described in more detail. | The responses to the questions are incomplete and work experiences are not provided. |  |
| **Total Score:** |  |  |  | /50 |