

Sisseton Wahpeton College

Title: Dakota Language Learner Intern
Reports To: Dakota Studies Program Co-Directors
Status: Temporary, Full-time, Two Year Grant Funded Position
Salary: \$16.48/hour
Tour of Duty: Generally, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Summary

The Dakota Language Learner Intern is a student intern who will be responsible for progressively learning the Dakota language under the mentorship of the Dakota Language Apprentices, department coworkers, and fluent Dakota language speakers as part of the Voices of Our Ancestors program. The position of Dakota Language Learner Intern requires an individual that is motivated to speak Dakota to and with others, is comfortable working and talking with elders, and can work diligently with minimal supervision.

The Dakota Language Learner Intern will be required to sign a two-year employment agreement and this position will end upon the conclusion of the grant-funded project. The Voices of Our Ancestors program is intended to train new language teachers, so upon completion of this project, the Dakota Language Learner Intern is highly encouraged to commit to two or more years as an immersion educator for Sisseton Wahpeton College and/or the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate.

Responsibilities/Duties

1. Participate actively in language instruction and conversation practice sessions with the Dakota Language Apprentices multiple times per week.
2. Attend all Dakota language sessions and classes as required.
3. Set regular language learning goals with guidance from the Dakota Language Apprentices.
4. Demonstrate clear progress by achieving language learning goals, gauged through regular assessment.
5. Complete the SWC Dakota Language Teaching Certificate program within two years.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of Dakota Wicoŋ'arj, its ethics and principles.
7. Complete all assigned research, readings, and tasks.
8. Participate in and help host weekly sessions with fluent-speaker elders.
9. Use independent study time productively towards language learning goals.
10. Comply with all College, Tribal, and Federal policies, regulations, and laws that govern the college.
11. May be required to assist with events.
12. May be required to travel.
13. Perform other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- High School diploma or GED required.
- Has completed Dakota Language 1 or higher level Dakota Language class with an A or B grade within the last three years, or can demonstrate equivalent language ability.
- Proficient with Microsoft Office and office machinery.
- Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Must be in good academic standing with SWC.

Required Skills and Attributes

- Must be highly motivated to learn the Dakota language.
- Good planning, organizational, and time management skills (including punctuality).
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work well as a team player. Comfortable working in groups.
- Displays high standards of ethical conduct. Conducts oneself with Dakota Wicoh'anj.
- Works independently with minimal supervision.
- Demonstrates responsible behavior and attention to detail.
- Good communication skills with elders.

Preferred Qualifications

- Has completed Dakota Language II or higher in the last three years.
- Has shown initiative in consistently studying the Dakota language on their own outside of a formal class.
- BA in Dakota Studies, Linguistics, Language Teaching, or related field.
- Three years of professional experience.
- Experience learning a second language.