

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Aubrey Large



Graduation Semester & Year: Spring '25

Semester & Year of Internship: Spring '25

Major: Criminal Justice

Hobbies: Gardening, drawing, working

Campus Activities:

Future Plans/Career Goals: Juvenile/Adult Correctional Therapist/Counselor

Minor: Legal Psychology

Hometown: Apollo, PA

- **Internship (company/your title):**
Westmoreland County Juvenile Youth Center/Westmoreland County Youth Service Worker
- **How did you find your internship?**
Job Fair on campus
- **What were your duties?**
To take care of troubled youth every day; Detention and Shelter residents. 3 meals, cell searches, court escorts, parental/guardian visits and phone calls, laundry, activities to keep the kids busy 12 hours a day, bedtime, 15-minute checks on the residents throughout the night.
- **How many hours per week were you at your internship site?**
Varied- 24-32 hours per week. You can choose how many shifts you are available.
- **What did you enjoy most about your internship?**
Working directly with the youth and being involved in their day-to-day lives while they are going through a rough time. I also like to see the wide range of crimes that juveniles are charged with across Westmoreland County and how they are treated through the correctional system along with how the placement facilities are run.
- **What was the most difficult aspect of the internship?**
The content of the children's charges and situations in the foster system was tough to believe and watch. The kids have many mental and emotional needs, as they have many ACE's (adverse childhood experiences) and trauma beyond comprehension.
- **How did your experience at UPG and in the Criminal Justice department prepare you for your internship?**
We were taught about the juvenile justice system and the processes of what the kids go through versus adults, so I was prepared for court and the intake process, etc., but I was not prepared for the real-life conditions of the juvenile system.
- **How has your internship prepared you for a career?**
My internship prepared me for my career because I plan on going into corrections, whether juvenile or adult, and obviously juvenile justice is "softer" than the adult justice system, so it was a good place to "get my feet wet" and actually experience the correctional system in real life, not only on tours or through reading textbooks, etc.
- **What recommendations do you have for other students about doing an internship?**
This internship specifically pulls on your heartstrings, and you must be strong-willed and resilient to not carry home the weight of the work, or let it affect you mentally. The content is not fun or light weight, some kids are facing prison time at 14 years old.

Any type of internship- do it!! It not only helps your resume, but it opens your eyes to so much more that you don't ever get to see while in school or once established at a job. Internships allow you to explore your options of work, you are not obligated to stay at one place of work and all employers have their pros and cons- you won't know about it or what you like until you explore and experience them.

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