



Field Experience Internship Opportunity

Position:	Internship – University course credit or equivalent
Agency:	North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve
Location:	Wilmington, NC – UNCW Center for Marine Science
Job category:	Temporary/Unpaid
UNCW Credit:	Up to 120 hours (4 credit hours)
Duration:	May – July 2026 (Start and end dates flexible)
Last date to apply:	February 20, 2026

Description: Assist the North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve with its mission of practicing and promoting informed management of NC's estuarine ecosystems through education, stewardship, and research. The Reserve is composed of 10 sites along the coast, but the intern will be working from the Wilmington office with a focus on the four southern sites (Masonboro Island, Zeke's Island, Bald Head Woods, and Bird Island).

General skills desired: Attention to detail, accountable, strong written and spoken communication skills, ability to work in difficult and physically challenging field conditions, and comfortable with field work.

**Experience with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), data collection, and boating (motorized and non-motorized) are preferred.*

Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Participate in species monitoring activities including sea turtle monitoring, diamondback terrapin surveys, and landscape/habitat monitoring.
- Assist Reserve staff with various site maintenance activities such as trail maintenance and sign installation.
- Compile data and document flora and fauna occurrences on reserve sites and contribute to database entry.

**Field activities require working in remote areas, in physically demanding conditions and walking numerous miles on sandy terrain.*

Other opportunities may include:

- Travel to other Reserve sites to participate in field-based activities, including educational outreach events.
- Learning field-based skills: observation and identification, data collection, species and land management, navigation, and equipment maintenance.
- Interacting with the public and practicing field-based education.
- Participation in internal and external research and stewardship projects, including working with local and state agencies including NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Audubon NC, NC Coastal Federation, etc.

*This position is largely a field-based opportunity that requires early morning hours between Monday and Friday. Scheduling is flexible.

To apply:

Send resume, cover letter, and two references to Elizabeth Pinnix, elizabeth.pinnix@deg.nc.gov by Friday, February 20, 2026.

**If you wish to receive course credit through this opportunity, please confirm with your department internship coordinator prior to applying.*

Application Deadline: February 20, 2026