

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA
HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM**

HP 480: Internship in Health Services

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LCSW, LMFT, LMHC, LCAC

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Prerequisites:

- Junior Standing (>63 hours)
- 2.75 GPA (3.0 in HS classes)
- Referral by Faculty Advisor
- Permission of Internship Advisor

Credits: 1 -3 credit hours (can be taken twice for credit)

Required Text: None

Course Description: The internship provides junior or senior student Health Services majors, who meet eligibility criteria, an opportunity to gain valuable insight and understanding of current topics in the healthcare environment while they assist the health care business reach its organizational goals. Interns will function as a valuable, but student member of a healthcare related management team. The experience will lead the student to a deeper appreciation of the nature of the healthcare field. Both leadership and team work opportunities will be sought, and the student intern will have a chance to think on their feet while participating in practical workplace situations. The University will work closely with the participating healthcare organization to customize an experience for the intern that meets the needs of the healthcare organization without compromising academic goals or the student's academic progress.

Course Objectives:

1. Internships are generally the most productive when students articulate and record their learning goals prior to the beginning of the field experience. Students will be asked to develop specific, measurable, verifiable, and achievable learning objectives which must be agreed upon by the faculty member.
2. The overall course objectives for an internship will be:
 - a. To gain an understanding of the expectations and duties of healthcare leaders.
 - b. To learn more about employment opportunities by reality-testing a healthcare career choice.
 - c. To discover additional career options in the healthcare field.

- d. To assimilate additional knowledge gained by observation, participation in project work, and discussion with healthcare professionals.
- e. To comprehend the impact of current issues and trends in various healthcare related business organizations.
- f. To uncover gaps that exists in the student's education or training which need to be addressed in order to pursue a particular type or position.
- g. To glean a sense of what employee behaviors are expected and considered appropriate by healthcare related organizations.
- h. To assist the student in development of maturity and confidence.
- i. To perceive, detect and absorb the business nuances that are nearly impossible to explain or understand I a typical course offering.

Evaluation Methods:

1. The healthcare organization community site will be asked to designate a business site mentor for each student on a Health Services internship experience. The mentor will be asked to complete a midterm and final evaluation of the student on forms provided by the Health Services Program.
2. The faculty internship advisor/designee will meet as frequently as deemed appropriate with the student to learn of their experiences at the business site. During such meetings the faculty member will assist the student in evaluating new material learned and reinforce previous knowledge gained in the classroom by guiding the student in their analysis of observations, tasks completed, and new skills acquired.
3. The faculty internship advisor and business site mentor will confer as needed to coordinate and guide the internship experience.
4. The student will be required to keep a learning journal of their internship experience. Information in the journal will be used by the student and faculty internship advisor as a basis for discussion and learning.
5. The student will be required to write a paper to define and analyze their internship learning experience during the semester's course work.
6. As appropriate, the faculty internship advisor may assign the student to read and report on various healthcare periodical articles, portions of reference texts, audio/visual material or Internet searches that may relate to and expand the student's understanding of a topic they may be learning during the internship.
7. The course will be offered on a pass/no pass basis.