



North Andover, Massachusetts 01845, 978-837-5000

HSC4850, 4855 HEALTH SCIENCE INTERNSHIP SME4850 SPORTS MEDICINE INTERNSHIP

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A work-study experience co-supervised by the Internship Coordinator and a mentor in the workplace. Students are placed according to interest and career path in a clinical, academic, community or industrial setting for the purpose of gaining hands-on experience in the health care field. Students who volunteer for internship in clinical, academic, and community settings provide a public service to the facility or program. Prerequisites: senior standing and consent of the department. (4 credits each semester)

GOALS OF THE HEALTH SCIENCE/SPORTS MEDICINE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

- An internship, which offers experience in health care settings and the possibility of patient contact, will broaden students' perspectives, and will assist students in career planning, allowing them to expand their career potential. Students provide a public service to the facility or program.
- An internship will assist students in acquiring the necessary prerequisites for professional programs. Hands-on experience is often required for acceptance into Nurse Practitioner, Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant graduate programs.
- An internship will expose students to other aspects of the workplace such as business, legal, insurance, administrative, and personnel issues and will broaden their perspectives regarding all facets of the health care industry.
- An internship will provide an alternative to the co-op program for students who may not be able to commit to twenty hours a week, or for students who may need additional courses to complete their graduation requirements.

AFFILIATES TO THE HEALTH SCIENCE/SPORTS MEDICINE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Provided that the employer is willing to follow the flexible guidelines proposed here, one anticipates that any academic, clinical or industrial setting that can offer a college level professionally oriented learning experience to a student would qualify for the internship program. We have established internship sponsors for our students, and we request that students interested in an internship experience become actively involved in seeking out and securing their own internships. This would indicate a certain level of commitment to the internship on the student's part.

The advantages to the sponsoring institution include:

- The opportunity to become actively involved as a mentor in the education of students. Many professionals are eager to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with students entering the profession.
- After appropriate training, students may indeed contribute to the operation of the facility in a significant way. Working with patients when schedules are tight would reduce the employee work load for example.
- The possibility of retaining the student after graduation as an employee, provided that the student is well-suited to the position.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE HEALTH SCIENCE/SPORTS MEDICINE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Internship Coordinator

It is the responsibility of the Internship Coordinator to place students in an appropriate internship, monitor the progress of students over the course of the semester, and to award the final grade for the course.

Work Supervisor

The supervisor must have an advanced degree or certification in the specialized area of training, should be experienced in the position and should be enthusiastic about teaching students. The Supervisor is directly responsible for accomplishing educational goals previously agreed upon with the Internship Coordinator.

Student Eligibility

The internship is open to enthusiastic career oriented students who have completed their junior year and who have the necessary completed coursework to become an effective member of the sponsoring organization. Students should have a minimum GPA of 3.0, or may be considered on the strong recommendation of the Internship Coordinator and student advisor. Students are expected to participate in the selection of the internship site.

Interns must be aware that participation in an off-campus experience in a professional capacity may involve a **dress code**, and are expected to determine the expectations in their particular workplace.

Please note: *Students will not be allowed to register for this course without written permission from the Internship Coordinator.*

Some students who are interns in a clinical setting may be required to purchase **liability insurance**, which costs \$29. per year. Forms may be obtained from the Internship Coordinator.

Earned Credit Hours of Internship

Students may earn four credits per internship course. Not more than two internship courses may be taken. **Students must spend a minimum of 125 total hours (twelve -twenty hours a week in the workplace).** A ten-week commitment to the sponsoring organization is the norm, with the remainder of the semester devoted to other assignments. In addition to actual work hours, students are expected to complete pertinent readings, which should include primary literature sources. Approximately six hours of assigned reading per week is expected, and if possible, there should be regular discussions of the readings with the Supervisor. The internship is departmental major capstone requirement. The internship may be taken for credit during the summer.

Please note: *In order to earn credit, students may not be paid for their internship experience.*

Course Requirements and Evaluation

The grade that a student receives will be determined based on an assessment of the knowledge and skills acquired, and on the student's level of competency in the workplace. The Internship Coordinator awards the final grade after careful evaluation of the student's performance, based on the **site supervisor's evaluation, the journal/notebook and the final project.**

Supervisor Evaluation

The Site Supervisor's evaluation should take into account

- the quality of the student's work, and evidence that s/he comprehends material and has mastered the skills taught by the Supervisor
- demonstration that the student has read and understands the reading assignments
- evidence that the student has kept a satisfactory journal or notebook
- that the student has completed **125-200 hours** of work at the internship facility
- other aspects of the student's performance such as dependability, initiative,
- and cooperation may also be assessed.

Please note: *The Supervisor's evaluation should be a written document presented to the Internship Coordinator on the last day of classes in that semester.*

Internship Coordinator Evaluation

The Coordinator evaluates the student's **journal or notebook**. This document should describe the scope of the project undertaken in the internship experience, and should include three components:

- The journal must contain a **log of daily activities and documentation of hours** at the internship facility.

- The journal must contain **information from and references to pertinent readings completed during the internship experience**. The majority of references should come from textbooks or primary literature journal articles; the use of educational internet sources (.edu or .gov) may supplement but not replace primary sources.
- The journal must contain a **reflective component**. Students should comment on the meaning of the experience in their education in Health Science. More detail on the journal is available on **Blackboard** as a “Course Document-The Role of Journals”. Students are required to participate in the Discussion Forum on Blackboard.

Final Project Paper and Presentation

The student intern must submit a **final project** to the Internship Coordinator. Students are expected to write a **substantial report** consistent with the nature of the learning experience, for example, an in-depth case study of a patient, a scientific paper describing an epidemiological study, a literature review on a particular condition, etc. This final report must be approximately **8 - 10 pages, with a list of 6 - 10 references**. These references should include different sources not cited in the journal, and should come primarily from journal articles describing original research and advanced texts, rather than the Internet.

Please note: *The journal and final project must be submitted on the last day of classes for that semester.*

In addition, each senior intern (Fall or Spring terms) will be required to produce a **poster presentation for Science and Engineering Senior Day** in April/May. This presentation may relate to the paper topic or to some aspect of the internship experience.

A letter grade will be awarded for the internship experience [students may not receive a Pass/Fail grade].

To the Site Supervisor: *In the event that students are working on proprietary projects, some arrangements between the Supervisor and Internship Coordinator will be made regarding confidentiality and the student evaluation.*

SUMMARY

The internship program in Health Sciences/Sports Medicine will produce graduates who are knowledgeable in biomedical science with an understanding of the principles of human biology, and who also have acquired skills and competencies and a mature and responsible attitude as a result of their experience in the workplace. The internship is intended to offer students the opportunity to gain the necessary hands on experience in preparation for professional graduate programs in the healthcare field, and to provide service to the institution. In general, the Health Science Internship should enhance the career potential of our graduates.

Please email the following information to the Internship Coordinators prior to the beginning of the semester for confirmation purposes.

Health Science (Kathleen.FitzPatrick@merrimack.edu)
Sports Medicine (Birgid.Hopkins@merrimack.edu)

For the Student Intern:

Please fill in the following form with information about your **Internship Supervisor**, and submit to the Internship Coordinator:

NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

TITLE/DEGREE/CREDENTIAL _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____