

Health Management and Informatics Summer Internship Information

General

Each summer graduate students in Health Services Management are required to participate in a summer experiential learning internship, for which they receive three hours of college credit. This takes place between the first and second years of graduate school.

- *Learning Objectives:* The internship is designed to incorporate the academic training students receive in their first year of the master's degree with practical applications within the host site. The students receive hands-on exposure to health care management in a real-world environment and experience first-hand the dynamics of a career in health care. The intern should have the opportunity to observe their mentor and other professionals in the work environment, as well as opportunities to discuss their experiences. Specific general skills to be developed include:
 - Leadership
 - Strategic decision making
 - Project management
 - Teamwork
- *Duration:* Internships last 12 weeks. Because classes at MU begin in late August, internships should start no later than late May, typically.
- *Compensation:* It is generally accepted that interns are paid a stipend to cover living expenses for the period of the internship. This is estimated at approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000. However, preceptors are encouraged to take into account regional variation in the cost of living.

Preceptor

- *Match:* It is important to the program that the needs of the preceptor and the preceptor's organization are met by participation in the internship program.
- *Mentoring:* The preceptor plays a critical role in the success of the internship experience. Preceptors are asked to commit to supervise the intern directly or to coordinate with the program director the assignment of the intern to secondary mentor. We acknowledge that this requires additional time and commitment on the part of the preceptor. Of particular importance is time outside of the normal shadowing during which the preceptor can answer questions, give advice, and help the student understand the larger issues.
- As students work closely with executive-level preceptors, they develop professional skills needed for future careers, and host organizations gain by having the student work on organizational projects.

Intern

- *Employee:* The intern functions as a full-time employee for the duration of the internship. As such he or she is subject to work rules, evaluation, and performance expectations similar to a full-time employee.

Projects

- *Number:* Typically, an intern will be involved in several projects during the 12-week period. Ideally, the intern will participate in at least three substantial projects.
- *Scope:* The projects may either engage the intern completely as a solo project or require the intern to interact with a team.

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