

Experiential Learning Hours Guide

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1. Training in Clinical and Research Settings

Some training opportunities in clinical and research settings have potential to count toward academic credit and Experiential Learning Hours. Other structured opportunities that do not carry academic credit (e.g., do not appear on your academic transcript and/or require faculty or department permission) may also be approved for Experiential Learning Hours in the IMS Degree Program.

Training with Academic Credit

Students can gain Experiential Learning Hours through structured clinical and research training programs offered by FSU or other institutions. Generally, clinical and research experiences, conducted while enrolled in a course for academic credit, that add to the fund of science knowledge and/or clinical skills will be considered toward Experiential Learning Hours. However, clinical and research experiences used to fulfill lab course requirements for the IMS B.S. Degree will not be considered toward Experiential Learning Hours. Students pursuing a second major should be aware that experiences used to fulfill second major requirements will not be considered toward Experiential Learning Hours.

Table 1. Examples of Academic Experiences for Experiential Learning Credit in the IMS Degree Program

Academic Experience	Experiential Learning Hours	Examples
Labs associated with science courses	No	Core and elective courses applying towards degree credit (e.g. BSC 2085L, BSC 3402L, CHM 1046L, etc.)
Certified Nursing Assistant Certificate Program	Yes	TSC Program
Directed Individual Study (DIS)	Yes	Enrolled in DIS hours cleared by the IMS Director of Research.
Emergency Medical Technician Certificate Program	Yes	TSC Program
FSU Medical Response Unit (MRU)	Yes	ATR 3112 – EMR Training Course (3 credits)

Honors in the Major Research	Yes	Enrolled in honors credit hours cleared by IMS Director of Research
Internship/Practicum	Yes	Medical Spanish Interpreting Practicum
Volunteer research experience	Yes	Volunteering with faculty conducting research

This list is not exhaustive. Experiences will be evaluated for counting towards Experiential Learning hours when information describing the nature of the program is provided.

Training without Academic Credit

Students can gain Experiential Learning Hours through structured clinical and research training programs that do not offer academic credit. Experiential Learning Hours can be earned for paid or unpaid experiences. Clinical and research experiences that add to the fund of science knowledge and/or clinical skills will be considered toward Experiential Learning hours, in most cases.

Table 2. Examples of Non-Academic Experiences for Experiential Learning Hours in the IMS Degree Program

Non-Academic Experiences	Experiential Learning Hours	Examples
Attending RSO meetings	No	General Body Meetings/Guest Lectures
Attending Professional Association conferences	Yes	ADEA, AAMC, Public Health conferences, etc.
Certified Nursing Assistant Training	Yes	Health Science Consulting, Goodwill Career Campus
Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)	Yes	FEMA’s CERT Online Training
CPR Training, BLS, First Aid	Yes	Southeastern School of Health Sciences; American Red Cross, Health Science Consulting
EKG Training	Yes	Who We Play For
Electronic Health Records Specialist Certification	Yes	National Healthcare Association
Emergency Medical Technician Training	Yes	TSC Program
FSU Safe Zones Training	Yes	
Human Subjects Research Training/Certification	Yes	FSU Office of Research Human Subjects Training; NIH Protecting Human Research Participants
Laboratory Safety Training	Yes	FSU Department of Environmental Health & Safety

Leadership Development Training	Yes	LeaderShape Institute, Leadership LOGIC
Lifeguarding Training	Yes	FSU Campus Recreation, City of Tallahassee
Medical Assisting/Clinical Assisting Training	Yes	Southeastern School of Health Sciences; Florida Health Science Consulting
Phlebotomy Training	Yes	Southeastern School of Health Sciences; Florida Health Science Consulting
Research Internships	Yes	Summer Research Programs; SHPEP, Mayo Clinic
Scribe Training	Yes	PhysAssist, Scribe America
Tobacco Cessation Facilitator Training/Employment	Yes	Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training
Victim Advocate/Sexual Violence Prevention Training	Yes	FSU Green Dot Bystander Trainings

This list is not exhaustive. Experiences will be evaluated for counting towards Experiential Learning Hours when information describing the nature of the program is provided.

2. Service Activities: Direct and Indirect

Volunteering and service activities can provide students with Experiential Learning appropriate for the IMS B.S. Degree Program. Some activities provide direct health service to clients, while others only have an indirect impact. For service and volunteering activities to be considered experiential learning, they must help students understand the health care system, its challenges, and issues, appreciate a patient-centric delivery system, and/or understand the importance of a collaborative healthcare team. Service to the community should also address community needs and serve disadvantaged or vulnerable populations. Ask yourself when committing to service or volunteering, “Will this help me learn more about my major-- Pre-Health Professions, Community Patient Care, or Health Management, Policy & Information?”

Table 3. Examples of Direct and Indirect Service Activities for Experiential Learning Hours in the IMS Degree Program

Service Activity	Direct/Indirect Service	Experiential Learning Hours	Examples
Fundraising/Philanthropic Events (Walk/Runs/Socials)	Direct or Indirect	No	Dance Marathon, Light the Night, Relay 4 Life; other fundraising events (concessions, share nights, socials).
Toiletry/Medicine/Food Drive Donation	Indirect	No	Making a donation, giving blood
Toiletry/Medicine/Food Drive Volunteer	Direct	Yes	Coordinating/Working collection drives

Religious/Spiritual service	Direct or Indirect	No	VBS/Bible teaching, involvement in worship service, religious missions
Community Gardens	Indirect	Yes	iGrow, Lotts Community Garden; Damayan, Inc.
Ability Services	Direct	Yes	FSU OAS Note-taker, Companion Animal Training, building ramps
Food Bank/Pantry Food Volunteer	Indirect	Yes	America’s Second Harvest, FSU Food Pantry, Homeless Shelter
Healthcare related service	Direct or Indirect	Yes	Big Bend Hospice, Bug Bend Cares, Ronald McDonald House
Homeless Shelter Volunteer	Direct or Indirect	Yes	The Kearney Center, Project Downtown, CCYS
Literacy Programs	Direct	Yes	Literacy Volunteers of Leon County, Conversation Partner
Telephone Counseling/Referral	Direct	Yes	2-1-1 Big Bend Crisis Hotline
Tutoring/ Mentoring	Direct	Yes	SSTRIDE Program, K-12, nonprofit organizations
Youth Services	Direct	Yes	Capital City Youth Services, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, Early Learning Coalition, FSU Youth Programs

This list is not exhaustive. Experiences will be evaluated for counting towards Experiential Learning Hours when information describing the nature of the activity is provided.

3. Professional Shadowing: Observation or Active Engagement

1. Shadowing can be a deciding factor in your healthcare career choice. Some shadowing opportunities can involve working side by side with healthcare providers while others involve simply observing and seeing what they do.
2. For shadowing experiences to count for Experiential Learning Hours, the activity must engage the student with the healthcare provider and patients.

Table 4. Shadowing for Experiential Learning Hours in the IMS Degree Program

Shadowing Activity	Observation/Engagement	Experiential Learning Hours	Examples
Surgery Observation	Observation	No	Red Hills Surgical Center Observation

Virtual Shadowing	Indirect	No	Watching pre-recorded videos of health professionals
Health Fair Volunteer	Engagement	Yes	Activities with patients and/or providers
Shadowing Healthcare Providers (MD, PA, NP, PT/OT, Nurse, DMD, etc.).	Engagement	Yes	Hospitals, Clinics, Nonprofits, Shadowing anyone in scrubs
Shadowing non-clinical professionals	Engagement	Yes	Shadowing an administrator, medical records, pharmacy, insurance

This list is not exhaustive. Experiences will be evaluated for counting towards Experiential Learning Hours when information describing the nature of the activity is provided.

4. Paid Experiences

Paid experiences qualify for EL hours only if they are directly related to the healthcare/medical field or related specifically to your career plans.

Table 5. Shadowing for Experiential Learning Hours in the IMS Degree Program

Position/Location	Experiential Learning Hours	Examples
Job on campus unrelated to healthcare	No	T.A., L.A., FIG leader, ACE Tutor, RA, etc.
Jobs unrelated to medical field or career goals	No	Cashier, retail, food/restaurant service, childcare, etc.
Medical Scribe	Yes	Part-time/full-time job in healthcare
Jobs that are directly related to health careers of interest.	Yes	Veterinary Tech, Surgical Tech, Dental Hygiene Assistant, Pharm Tech, etc.
FSU Health & Wellness Center, University Counseling Center, Office of Accessibility Services	Yes	Jobs on campus, involved with assisting clients with services related to health/wellness (nutrition, insurance, medical treatment, counseling, accessing resources)
Research Lab Assistant	Yes	Working as a lab assistant for faculty in their research labs.
Working in healthcare	Yes	Reception, records, insurance, clinical jobs, etc.