



# COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

B.S. Degree in **Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences (IMS)**

## Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences B.S. Degree Program Experiential Learning Guidelines

**Purpose:** The goal of the IMS experience is to help students understand the health care system, its challenges and issues, appreciate a patient-centric delivery system, understand the importance of a collaborative healthcare team, and confirm their dedication to serve in the healthcare field. Every student is required to gain a variety of approved and documented experiences for progression in the program. Experiences include shadowing, volunteering, clinical experience and research. Through these experiences, students will develop a passion for service to the community, a desire to help people, an increased awareness of medical research, and an understanding of various health professions, what they do, and how they work together. Both exploratory and on-going experiences are encouraged.

### **Guiding Principles:**

- Obtain progressively responsible experiences lasting multiple semesters, often in the same venue.
- Build strong partnerships in the community to produce strong learning environments for students that help meet workforce development needs.
- Experiential learning activities must be personally relevant to the student.

### **Experiential and Service Learning:**

Real world experience, or experiential learning, aids students in determining their interests, skills and values outside of the classroom. Service learning is experiential education that combines classroom instruction with organized service to the community.

**Goals:** The goal of Experiential Learning is to provide students with knowledge of their desired healthcare profession. Through direct service to populations served by health professionals and agencies, students will gain knowledge of a particular community and their needs while demonstrating their commitment to helping others.

**Requirements:** The IMS B.S. Degree Program requires the successful completion of a minimum of 64 hours of experiential learning hours each academic year for a total of 256 experiential learning hours before graduation. Every student must become actively immersed throughout each academic year, in a variety of experiential learning experiences, including shadowing, clinical and non-clinical volunteering, health-related research and certification trainings (CPR, CNA, EMTB, etc.). These activities must be submitted in advance and documented using our secure online database. Students are encouraged to join health-related student organizations and take advantage of leadership opportunities within those organizations and in other programs and places across campus.

Experiential learning activities provide students with:

1. Exposure to various health, healthcare, and health-related careers
2. Opportunities to explore health related topics and issues
3. Experiences working with diverse populations in a variety of settings
4. Knowledge about important social problems
5. Greater understanding of their chosen profession
6. Continuous networking opportunities



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### **IMS Seminar Sequence and Capstone Course:**

A unique and innovative aspect of the IMS B.S. Degree Program is the IMS Experiential Service Learning sequence, engaging students in the real world of health care beginning in the freshman year and culminating with the Capstone course in the senior year that will require research and/or analysis of health care venues and delivery. Students will participate in Volunteer Training during their Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences Seminar. This training is required for all IMS degree students.

**Goals:** The goal of the seminar sequence and capstone course are to provide structure and context for the experiential and service learning process.

**Requirements:** Students will enroll in the lower-division, upper-division, and senior capstone courses. The assignments in each course align with service and experiential learning activities in the same academic year.

All majors in the IMS B.S. Degree Program require completion of the experiential IMS Experiential Service Learning Seminar sequence (freshmen through senior year) and the Senior Capstone course that includes a senior project. All seminars are letter graded. Students must complete seminars with grades of C- or above.

Note: Students in the IMS majors are highly encouraged to obtain a Clinical Assisting, First Responder, or EMT certificate in addition to their required coursework and experiential hours. If the certificate program requires a practicum, field experience, or internship, then those hours can be counted as experiential hours.

### **Contact Information:**

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