

ULM

Department of Health Studies

Practicum II

Overview:

The Health Studies Practicum II (HLST 4003) is a 3 credit hour course designed to place a student at a healthcare agency during their senior year. Its purpose is to allow students the opportunity to have on-the-job experiences in healthcare while under supervision in an approved agency. It also allows students to explore their interests and career options while in school and apply what they have learned in classes to real-world employment.

Students are expected to meet certain academic requirements prior to Practicum II and to work diligently and professionally while in the practicum experience. In addition, students are required to complete a minimum 104 hours at an approved agency over the semester.

Practicum Objectives:

1. Observe and actively participate in decision-making and strategic planning involved in program design, implementation and evaluation at the healthcare agency.
2. Perform all roles and responsibilities effectively demonstrating professionalism and a strong work ethic.
3. Identify organizational techniques for responding to pressures from social, political, regulatory, competitive and other external sources.
4. Explain the purpose of selected internal programs such as community education, employee education, and quality improvement and describe it in relation to the organization.
5. Describe management styles observed and self-critique personal management style relative to site observations.
6. Apply techniques of problem solving and decision-making to one of the organization's problems and present solution in PowerPoint presentation to administrative personnel and Department of Health Studies faculty.

Potential Practicum Sites

The practicum experience allows ULM to partner with the community in educating students. Although healthcare agencies vary, potential practicum sites include: 1) pharmaceutical companies where the student partners with a pharmaceutical sales representative; 2) hospitals where the student partners with business office administrators or unit supervisors; 3) rehabilitation centers where the student partners with marketing directors; and 4) nursing homes where the student partners with administrators.