

The Health Care Administration (HCA) Internship provides students the opportunity to apply the skills and knowledge gained in the classroom to a real world healthcare setting. The internship provides valuable networking opportunities and often helps students decide upon the work setting best suited to their career objectives.

Students work under the direct supervision of a preceptor, who is a manager or administrator in the sponsoring organization. The preceptor guides and directs the intern's work assignments as well as provides performance feedback and coaches the student's professional development.

The internship is accomplished by completing 120 hours in an approved healthcare organization. The student earns 4 semester credits upon successful completion of the internship and receives a pass/fail grade.

Students typically complete their internship in the semester following the completion of their academic course work; however they may take it any time after being admitted to major. Students that complete their internship prior to the completion of all course work must obtain the signature of their academic advisor and the HCA Internship Coordinator to be eligible to complete the internship.

HCA internships are arranged by the HCA Internship Coordinator, who helps the student identify goals and areas of interest, initiates contact with the appropriate preceptor, and ensures that there is an affiliation agreement in place between ISU and the organization. The HCA Internship Coordinator will also oversee the specifics of the internship in regard to starting and ending dates, what the preceptor can expect from the student, and what the student can expect from the preceptor, and will ensure that the entire 120 hours are completed.