

Why + Healthcare Experience

The field of healthcare is both broad and competitive. Strong candidates need experiences that inform them about the field and develop required skillsets. Engaging in the types of activities outlined in this document will help you get the competitive edge you need.

GVSU RESOURCES

Career Center
gvsu.edu/careers

CHP Student Services Office
gvsu.edu/chpss

CLAS Academic Advising Center
gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional

KCON Office of Student Services
gvsu.edu/kcon/oss

Volunteering

- What is it? Unpaid experience providing service to an organization.
- Extended volunteering shows commitment.
- Healthcare volunteering can take time to set-up so plan ahead.
- Many healthcare sites require special documentation (immunizations, background checks, and HIPAA training).
- Be punctual, professional and have a positive attitude.
- Keep record of your hours and reflections for your resume, and school applications.

Get Started

- GVSU's Community Service Learning Center (gvsu.edu/service) connects students to volunteer opportunities.
- Attend GVSU's Non-profit Volunteer Fairs
- Checkout the CHP, CLAS, KCON Advising Centers' websites for volunteer locations.
- Search for local hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, and non-profit websites. Most have volunteer information on their websites.

Job Shadowing

- What is it? Spending time observing someone on the job in their work environment.
- Might be necessary to apply to clinical programs.
- Check out VCU Career Services' "Guide: Get the Most out of Your Health Professions Shadowing" which provides tips on how to prepare for a shadow.

Get Started

- Start talking with personal connections like family and friends or your healthcare provider. You might already have a connection.
- Google a hospital's volunteer website or contact their human resources department to see if there is an existing job shadowing program.
- Visit your advising center's website for a list of potential shadowing resources.
- Utilize LinkedIn to connect with professionals. New to LinkedIn? Come to the Career Lab for assistance.

Informational Interview

- What is it? A way to investigate majors/careers by talking to a professional about their experience.
- Can be a casual conversation or more formal type of interaction that can take place anywhere.
- Develop a list of questions that you want answered pertaining to their education, typical day on the job, favorite and least favorite parts of their work, and advice for an aspiring professional.

Get Started

- Let family and friends know you are looking to connect with someone in healthcare, you may be surprised to find you already have a connection.
- Visit the Career Center to find ways to connect with alumni.
- Talk to faculty and professional advisors for suggestions or referrals.
- Consider GVSU programs (i.e. Cook Leadership Academy and 30 Minute Mentors) that connect students to mentors.

Internship

- What is it? A way to get hands-on practice and supervised experience in your field of study.
- Could also be referred to as a practicum, fieldwork, or clinical rotation.
- May be for credit or no credit, and may be paid or unpaid.
- Any major can do an internship, you can even do an internship if you are exploring majors.

Get Started

- Utilize Handshake to search for opportunities and explore employer profiles.
- Come to the Career Center.
- Talk to your academic department / faculty advisor.
- Make a personal connection with someone in the field and discuss if there are opportunities.

Part-Time Work

- What is it? Paid experience in the field.
- A great way to get experience and make money.
- Certifications and trainings may be required.
- Examples include Certified Nursing Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician, Nurse Tech, Phlebotomist, Medical Scribe.

Get Started

- Create a profile in Handshake to search for positions. Come to the Career Lab if you need help getting started with Handshake.
- Attend GVSU career fairs.
- Find out what your friends are doing, they might be able to refer you to a supervisor.