

BMS 492 Internship Experience

Some general information to help you get started.

An internship is essentially a mentored job experience. Whether the internship is paid or unpaid, there needs to be an on-site supervisor who mentors you during the experience but also evaluates you with regard to professionalism, motivation to learn and other desirable qualities that are important to employers. From the student perspective, the internship is a chance to explore a certain field to decide whether it is a good fit for a future career.

You will need to take the initiative to find an appropriate internship site with a supervisor who agrees to work with you for the semester. It is the responsibility of the BMS internship site coordinator to oversee all Biomedical Science majors who are doing internships each semester. This includes going over the internship manual with you so you know what is expected, approving the internship site, receiving the required documents during the internship period, and assigning the grade at the end of the semester.

BMS 492 internships are graded as credit/no credit and require a minimum of 45 hours of work per credit registered. Up to 3 credits can count toward your BMS elective requirements and any additional credits (which is rare) will count toward the 120 credits needed to graduate. Students often ask if their job as a medical scribe can count as an internship, and the answer is no. This is because the student is already trained and works quite independently as a medical scribe, not receiving the mentorship or breadth of experiences that we hope you will have in an internship.

Some Common Internship Experiences

Students often find their own arrangements. For example, a doctor or dentist office might be willing to have you intern with them. Ideally you would rotate through all areas of the practice, from front desk, billing and insurance, to rooming the patients and shadowing the doctors. The professionals would be expected to spend time discussing cases and giving insight into their experience in practice.

The Kent County Health Department offers internship opportunities every semester that cover a range of different interest areas. For a Winter 2022 internship, you will need to submit a complete application package following KCHD instructions during the time period of August 9-August 27, 2021. <https://www.accesskent.com/Health/AHD/internships.htm>

Mercy Health has internships in a variety of areas in the hospital, including both medical, business, and administrative roles. <https://www.mercyhealth.com/careers/career-options/internships>

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has a variety of internships in the summer. https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73970_50649_52128---,00.html

Van Andel Institute Summer Internship Program is a competitive internship program that accepts students from around the country. It is a paid internship and there are a variety of

research labs to choose from. The application deadline is typically February 1 for the following summer. <https://vaigs.vai.org/undergrad-research/apply/>

Grand Rapids YMCA and Mary Free Bed YMCA

Volunteer and internship opportunities are listed at <https://www.grymca.org/volunteerintern>

Michigan Clinical Outcomes Research and Reporting Program

<http://www.med.umich.edu/mcorrp/about-us/internship.html>

Study Abroad Internships

[International Studies Abroad](#) (ISA) has both health and research internship opportunities in several different countries. For students who have a Spanish minor or are fluent in Spanish, there are options where Spanish is required.

[Research-based Internships](#)
[Health Internships](#)

Padnos International Center. Check with the [Padnos International Center](#) to find many other options for combining study abroad with research or health internships.

I found an internship possibility. What's next?

Once you have settled on a possible internship, the next step is to meet with the BMS internship coordinator for

- approval of the internship site
- acquiring a permit to register for BMS 492
- reviewing the [BMS 492 Internship Manual](#), which covers the objectives and procedures for the internship as well as all the forms needed for evaluation.

Contact Information for the BMS Internship coordinator

Dr. Debra Burg
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Virtual or in-person appointments can be made through Navigate.