Tailor Your SRM Experience:  
Do a Self-Initiated Practicum  

SRM: 4190:0002  
Spring, Summer or Fall Terms  

A self-initiated practicum is an agreement between the student and a sport, recreation or leisure focused organization of their choice. The Office of Field Experience assists students in identifying opportunities but it is ultimately the student’s responsibility to make contact and arrangements directly with the partnering organization.  

Earn one, two or three credits during each practicum experience.  

Gain experience tailored to your own career path by working with a collegiate, private, commercial or non-profit organization.  

| Examples for organizations that University of Iowa SRM students have worked with in the past: |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Iowa Athletics                  | University of Iowa Recreational Services        | NASCAR           |
| Cedar Rapids Kernels            | Iowa Wild                                       | Chicago Fire Soccer Club |
|                                 |                                                 | Indiana Pacers    |
| Parks and Recreation departments around the country and in students’ home towns. |

**Registration:**  
Students register for practicum credit during normal class registration.  

**Credits:**  
During registration the student identifies either 1, 2 or 3 credits, based on the anticipated number of work hours over the semester.  

**Meeting:**  
The student must meet with the SRM practicum coordinator prior to registration to ensure the practicum meets all necessary requirements.  

**Schedule:**  
Practicum credits must be earned during the term in which they are registered. For example, if registering for spring semester credit, the hours worked must be worked January – May, 2016.  

**Come see one of us if you have any questions!**  
Spring, 2016: Jef Farland, jef-farland@uiowa.edu, FH 328  
Summer/Fall, 2016: Anna Jensen, anna-jensen@uiowa.edu, FH 346
FAQ’s:

Q: What are the student’s responsibilities?
A: The student must complete paperwork including:

- practicum goal setting & learning outcomes
- explanation of field experience opportunities
- field experience / work evaluations
- periodic meetings with the UI Practicum coordinator
- a final report & self-evaluation

Q: How do I know how many credits should I register for?
A: That depends on the number of field experience hours you’ll be working.

Practicums can be done for 1, 2 or 3 s.h.

45 field experience hours = 1 semester hour of credit.
A student working 45 hours with a team, league office or agency would earn 1 semester hour of practicum credit. 90 hours of field experience earns 2 s.h. 135 field hours earns 3 s.h.

To fulfill the required number of hours for a three credit Practicum (135 hours), a student should average about 9 hours per week.

Q: Can I get paid during my Practicum experience?
A: Yes, the University of Iowa does allow the student to get paid a stipend or an hourly wage.

It is important to remember, however, that it is common for practicum experiences to be on a volunteer, unpaid basis.

Q: What is the difference between a Practicum & an Internship?
A: Practicums are for 1 – 3 semester hours of credit depending upon the organization and student’s need. Internships can be done for either 6 or 9 semester hour credits. This equates to 270 – 405 hours in the field.

Q: Can I still get credit for something I’m doing right now?
A: Depends on when you are reading this…If the semester registration deadline has already passed, you cannot retroactively earn credits. You can register for credit in the following semester, provided the experience is also ongoing.

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