FAQs

Sport & Recreation Management
Practicums & Internships

Q. Must I complete both a practicum and internship to receive a degree in Sport and Recreation Management?

A. Yes, the SRM 282 practicum and SRM 482 internship are both required courses in the curriculum just like any other course. The SRM faculty strongly believe that these experiential courses are vital to student preparation and success in our industries. Completion of these courses helps students compete against the more than 30K other undergraduate and graduate students around the country completing a degree in Sport/Recreation Management. It also helps to provide our students with a competitive advantage over students completing degrees in other disciplines (e.g., General Business, Communication, Psychology, etc.) who desire to enter the sport industry.

Q. Is the practicum and internship really a class or just some work I have to complete?

A. There is both a practical and academic component to the SRM 282 practicum and SRM 482 internship. As mentioned above, both SRM 282 and SRM 482 are academic courses. While the majority of what you will be doing during this time is working with your site agency, you will need to complete time logs, evaluations, goals and objectives, a short quiz, and a summary paper for academic credit. These materials are accessible on Canvas and must be completed in order to receive academic credit.

Q. How many academic credits is the practicum and internship worth?

A. The SRM 282 practicum is a 3-credit course; and the SRM 482 internship is a 6-credit course.

Q. How many agency hours must I complete for the practicum and internship?

A. The SRM 282 practicum requires that you complete 90 agency hours over the course of 10 weeks. Roughly speaking, this equates to about 9 hours per week. Whereas, the SRM 482 internship requires that a student complete 400 hours with their agency over the course of 10 weeks. Because this is equal to working a full-time 40-hour job, students are not permitted to complete more than 1 other academic course while enrolled in the SRM 482 internship.

Q. Is there paperwork that I need to complete in order to register for the SRM 282 practicum and SRM 482 internship?

A. Yes, students are required to complete and have signed an agency agreement form (SRM 282 Agency Agreement form); (SRM 482 Agency Agreement form) prior to enrolling in each course. These forms should be returned to Dr. Shonk (shonkdj@jmu.edu). Once he has received the agency agreement form you will receive an email from Colleen Jetton (jettonce@jmu.edu) indicating that you have permission to enroll. Once you have received this email then you can go to MyMadison to enroll in the course.

Q. Are there deadlines for completing the agency agreement form?

A. Yes, the deadline for returning the agency agreement form for Summer and Fall practicums/internships is April 15. The deadline for returning the agency agreement form for Spring practicums/internships is November 15. All forms should be returned to Dr. Shonk by these dates.
Q. How do I go about finding the organization (i.e., the site) where I will do my practicum and internship?

A. There is no one answer to this question. However, we highly recommend that you network, network, network. Your courses will have guest speakers and you should make contacts with these people. We recommend that you attend conferences, career fairs, and volunteer in various capacities. You should also create a LinkedIn account. Talk to faculty, other students and especially try to network with JMU alums who are working in the industry. One way to connect with our alumni is through the Hart School Alumni Network. You can find more information about the Alumni Network on their Facebook page.

Q. How are grades administered for the practicum and internship? Can I fail the course?

A. Students enrolled in the SRM 282 practicum and SRM 482 internship will receive a grade of Credit (CR), No Credit (NCR), or Incomplete (I). Students who complete all requirements for the course prior to the end of the semester receive a grade of CR. Students who have not completed all requirements prior to the end of the semester will receive an incomplete grade. Finally, it is possible to fail the course and receive a grade of NCR. A failing grade may occur in cases where a student is fired by their agency; or by not adequately completing all requirements.

Q. Are there prerequisites that I must complete prior to registering for the SRM 282 practicum and SRM 482 internship?

A. Yes. Prior to registering for the SRM 282 practicum students must have completed the SRM 241 course. Prior to registering for the SRM 482 internship students must have completed the SRM 282 practicum, SRM 333 Management in Sport & Recreation, completed a total of 72 credit hours, and not be on academic probation.

Q. Can I complete my practicum and/or internship whenever I want?

A. Yes and No. You have some flexibility to complete the practicum and/or internship during the semester you would prefer. However, both the SRM 282 practicum and SRM 482 internship are classes and must be completed in the Fall semester, Spring semester or during the 10 Undergraduate session during the Summer. You must be enrolled in the course prior to the drop/add deadline during these semesters.

Q. When do most students complete the SRM 282 practicum?

A. Most students complete the practicum during their sophomore year after they have completed SRM 241, which is a pre-requisite course.

Q. When do most students complete the SRM 482 internship?

A. Most students complete the internship either at the end of their junior year or the end of their senior year. A small number of students complete the internship during their junior year. The advantage of taking it junior year is that you have completed the requirement and do not need to be concerned with finding an internship site prior to graduation. However, the disadvantage is that you still have one year of classes remaining and are unable to accept a position with the company should they want to hire you immediately after completing the internship. Thus, many students will take the internship in the summer after completing all coursework of their senior year. They normally walk
for graduation in May and then complete the internship from May to July. They receive their diploma normally in August after completing all assignments for the internship.

Q. Are there certain agencies that I must work with to complete my practicum and/or internship?

A. We do not require that you work with any certain organization to complete your practicum and/or internship. However, it is required that you work with an organization that falls within the broad definition of the sport and recreation industry. Thus, working for your parents plumbing business or waiting tables at a hometown restaurant do not qualify as acceptable sites.

Q. Where do most SRM students complete their practicum?

A. Most students complete their practicum at a site (e.g., JMU Athletics, UREC) in the Harrisonburg area during the Fall or Spring semester at the same time as they are completing other courses required by the Sport & Recreation Major. Some students also complete the practicum during the summer 10 week undergraduate term that runs from May until July.

Q. Where do most SRM students complete their internship?

A. Because faculty encourage SRM students to use the internship as a way to launch their career, students are working all over the place. A typical summer may see students working at site locations in more than 10 states and 3-4 different countries. It just depends on their short and long-term objectives.

Q. Are there certain states where JMU students cannot complete a practicum and/or internship?

A. Yes, currently JMU students cannot work in Delaware, Kentucky, Utah or Wisconsin. JMU is part of an organization called SARA (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements), which only allows our students to complete internships or any other in-place, for credit courses in any participating state. JMU cannot offer credit-bearing courses (including internships for credit) in states that are not members of SARA or in a state where JMU is not authorized. Currently the four states listed above are not members of SARA. Click here for more information about SARA.