

SRM 282 Practicum & SRM 482 Internship Information FAQs

Q. Must I complete both a practicum and an 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 other undergraduate and graduate students from around the country completing a degree in Sport and 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. Both SRM 282 and SRM 482 are academic courses. While the majority of what students will be doing during this course is working with an agency, students will need to complete a quiz, goals, work logs, evaluations, and a reflection paper in a timely manner throughout the semester for academic credit. These materials are accessible on Canvas and must be completed in a reasonable timeline 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. The SRM 482 Internship is a 6-credit course.

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

A. The SRM 282 Practicum requires that students complete 90 work hours over 10 weeks. Roughly speaking, this equates to about 9 hours of work per week. The SRM 482 Internship requires that students complete 400 work hours over 10 weeks. This is equal to working a full-time, 40-hour per week job. Students are not permitted to enroll in more than one other academic course while also enrolled in the SRM 482 Internship.

Q. Can I work anywhere to complete my practicum or internship?

A. No. Practicum and internship work must be completed at an organization within the broad field of sport and recreation management. There are no exceptions. Additionally, JMU Athletics does not allow student managers for a sport to count those hours toward a practicum or 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 an agency acceptance form found at the bottom of this page prior to enrollment: <https://www.jmu.edu/hartschool/caps/internships-practicums.shtml>. Once completed, the practicum and internship coordinator will approve the site as long as it is within the sport and recreation management industry. The student will receive an e-mail from the practicum and internship coordinator with an override code that allows registration into the course.

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

A. Yes. The deadline for submitting the agency acceptance form is the Friday before classes begin for that semester. For example, if classes begin on Wednesday, the agency acceptance form is due the previous Friday.

Q. How do I find the organization where I will do my practicum or internship?

A. There is no one single answer to this question. Students should reflect on what area they want to gain experience. Practicum positions during the Fall or Spring semesters are typically found on campus or around Harrisonburg, or at times may be conducted virtually. Practicum positions during the summer can be completed anywhere. Internship positions may be completed anywhere. To find a practicum or internship position, start at the Hart School Career Development page on Canvas, where positions are posted regularly. Students are recommended to rely on their network of contacts from previous volunteer work, faculty, other students, JMU alumni, Hart School Alumni Network, and guest speakers. Students are encouraged to be active on LinkedIn.

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

A. Students enrolled in SRM 282 Practicum or 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 will receive a grade of CR. Students who have not completed all requirements prior to the end of the semester will receive a grade of I. The Incomplete grade will be changed after the student has completed all of the necessary requirements in a timely manner. It is possible to fail the course and receive a grade of NCR. Examples of how a student may fail the course may include but are not limited to getting fired from the position or not submitting the academic requirements in a timely manner.

Q. Are there prerequisites that I must complete prior to registering for the SRM 282 Practicum or SRM 482 Internship?

A. Yes. Prior to registering for the SRM 282 Practicum, students must have completed SRM 241. Prior to registering for the SRM 482 Internship, students must have completed SRM 282, SRM 333, 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. Students have flexibility to complete the practicum and/or internship during the semester they 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-week Summer semester. Students must be enrolled in the course prior to the add/drop 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 completed SRM 241, which is a prerequisite 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 at the end of their senior year. The advantage of completing the internship during the junior year is that the student has completed the requirement and does not need to be concerned with finding an internship immediately at graduation. The disadvantage is the student still has one year of classes remaining and would be unable to accept a position with the company if it wanted to hire the student. The most common timeline is for students to take the internship during the summer after all coursework has been completed. Students may participate in May commencement, then complete their internship from May-July. Students would receive their diploma in August after all assignments and hours have been completed 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 students work with any certain organization to complete the practicum and/or internship. However, it is required that students work with an organization that falls within the broad field of sport and recreation management.

Q. Where do most SRM students complete their practicum?

A. Most students complete their practicum at a site in Harrisonburg (e.g., JMU Athletics, UREC) during the Fall or Spring semester while they are completing other courses within the SRM curriculum. Some students also complete the practicum during the 10-week Summer semester from May-July.

Q. Where do most SRM students complete their internship?

A. Faculty encourage SRM students to use the internship as a way to launch their career, so students work all over. A typical summer may have students working at locations in more than 10 states and 3-4 countries. The location depends on the student's career goals.

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

A. Yes. Currently, JMU students cannot work in California. JMU is part of an organization called State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA), which only allows our students to complete internships for credit courses in any participating state. JMU cannot offer credit-bearing courses (including internships and practicums for credit) in states that are not members of SARA or in a state where JMU is not authorized. Currently, the states listed are not members of SARA.