

How to Succeed in the Paramedic Field Internship

Listed below are some frequently asked questions and answers to help you succeed in your Paramedic Field Internship. Please refer to them often until you become well versed in the structure of the internship. Enjoy your learning experience!

1. What must I take with me to internship?

You must take your field internship guide, Paramedic Program Handbook, patient care reports, uniforms, BCLS, EMT, ACLS, PALS, and PHTLS certifications, Paramedic Review text, personal belongings, and Fisdap password for logging your data.

2. When should I contact my instructor?

You should contact your instructor whenever you have a question or any type of difficulty that you and your preceptor cannot resolve.

3. When should my preceptor contact my instructor?

After each 48 hours of evaluation to update the learning progression or at anytime a question or difficulty arises.

4. What is the best way to contact my instructor?

For non-emergencies: (e-mail):

Jim Rodgers, Clinical Instructor jrogers@csi.edu

Gordon Kokx, Program Manager gkokx@csi.edu

For emergencies (phone):

Jim Rodgers, Clinical Instructor (208) 732-6711 or (208) 430-3090

Gordon Kokx, Program Manager (208) 732-6710 or 1-888-857-0649

5. How long will my internship last?

Internships are scheduled to be 405 hours. Since it is competency-based learning however, it could go longer if objectives are not achieved.

6. Will I be in charge of patients on my first day?

No. Internships are structured to allow you to meet your preceptor, learn the system in which you will be learning, be an observer and then progress to team member and finally team leader.

7. How many calls must I go on before I can complete my internship?

Again, since it is competency-based learning, there is no specific number of calls. You must, however be team leader of a minimum of at least 50 emergency responses.

8. As team leader, are there certain kinds of calls I must complete?

Yes. You must be team leader on a minimum of 50 calls as follows:

20 ALS calls

15 BLS calls

5 patient refusal calls

10 additional ALS or BLS calls

9. Do I have to fill out paper work on every call?

Yes. Just like in the field, you must complete a PCR on every call.

10. How long do I have to log my PCR's in FISDAP?

You have 72 hours from the time of the call to log it in FISDAP.

11. What if I don't log my calls in the required 72 hours?

The runs will not count and you will have to complete additional calls for credit.

12. What paperwork does my preceptor have to complete?

Each shift: Your preceptor must complete a Daily Field Internship evaluation form.

At 120hrs, 240hrs, 360hrs: Your preceptor must complete a **Major Evaluation** form.

At the end of Internship: Your preceptor must complete a **Final Evaluation** form and a **Final Professional Behavior** form which will qualify you to take your final exams to become an Entry Level Paramedic.

13. What paperwork must I complete each day?

You must complete a PCR for every call, the skill log, and a preceptor evaluation form.

14. What do I do with my paperwork when I complete it?

First you must review your your PCR's with your preceptor for critique / feedback, then enter the data in FISDAP. Finally the paperwork must be returned to CSI. Your self-evaluations and preceptor evaluations will be returned to CSI.

15. When do I complete my Internship Portfolio?

At the end of your internship, you will place ALL of your completed paperwork in a 3 ringed binder. You will separate evaluations, run sheets, etc., with marked dividers.

16. When should I be checked off on my skill proficiencies?

You may request to be checked off on your skill proficiencies at anytime you feel comfortable to do so. Don't wait too long! You must show competency at least five times before requesting a proficient signature from you preceptor.

17. How and when do I evaluate my Internship Site?

After you have completed your time at your chosen internship site(s), you must complete a "Student Evaluation of Field Internship" form. To remain consistent with national accreditation standards, this form must accompany all clinical forms that are turned in. Failure to do so will result in the student repeating the rotation.

18. When does my preceptor complete the Final Field Internship Evaluation form?"

Once you are finished with your internship and met all of your competencies, your preceptor will sign this form...which will be a wonderful thing.

19. What is the Health Hazard Exposure Form?

This is a form that is to be filled out in the event you are exposed to anything hazardous during your internship. Besides filling out the form, you should seek immediate medical attention and notify the Program Manager immediately thereafter.

20. Can I participate in Internship hours while I am working or be paid for internship?

Absolutely not! Insurance does not cover you when you are being paid and you cannot function as a paid employee and a student at the same time.

21. What if my preceptor or I myself have questions about forms, policies, procedures, or anything else related to internship?

Feel free to contact the CSI Clinical Instructor or Program Manager!