

## Health Care Services II Externship Program

The Health Care Services II **Externship Program** enables students to explore careers related to health care professions. Students are given an opportunity to complete three externship experiences with adult mentors in health-care related occupations. During the externship, students will have an opportunity to observe professionals in their field of expertise, provide assistance as needed, and apply skills learned in HCS I.

**Mission Statement:** The mission for Health Care Services II is to provide relevant career guidance, quality instruction, realistic work-based learning externship placements, and positive leadership development.

**Course Description:** Health Care Services II (HCS II) is a 180-hour course that allows students to explore different health care related fields during a work based learning experience. The program works in cooperation with the student's family, participating high school, health care providers, community and service organizations and institutions of higher learning.

In HCS II, students will apply their academic and technical skills in a health care setting under the direct supervision of mentors. ***The prerequisite for HCS II is successful completion of HCS I. To be considered for enrollment in the externship, students must have earned a minimum "B" grade in Health Care Services I, and have displayed maturity and solid work ethics throughout the course. Teacher recommendation for HCS II is required and will be based on the following:***

- Attendance in Health Care Services I class fall semester
- Arriving for class on time and not leaving class early
- Participation in class discussions and activities
- Appropriate dress (attire) for clinical experiences
- Appropriate interactions with classmates, including study group
- Respectful toward guest speakers, community mentors, and student peers
- Completion of required assignments and quality of work
- Dependability in following through with assignments and projects
- Notifies HCS instructor **prior** to planned absences

Students who participate in the Externship Program ***must*** schedule the last two hours of their school day (1:00 – 2:50 PM) for the classroom component and the community work-site externships. ***In addition, students will need to have flexibility in their schedule to allow for externship activities that extend beyond the school day.*** Students who have commitments to sports, drama, or other afternoon school activities, or students whose work schedule includes shifts that begin before 4:00 PM lack the time and flexibility necessary to complete the Externship requirements. Students are advised to consult with their parents, school counselors, and HCS instructor before registering for HCS II.

**Course Format:** At the beginning of the course, students will review career goals, prepare an actual job application and resume, and prepare for the externship site. The student, the HCS instructor and worksite mentor will design a learning contract for each externship site in which goals and expectations will be clearly defined. The learning contract may be modified by the worksite mentor, but must be agreed upon by both the student and the mentor.

The course format is structured around weekly classes held on **Mondays from 1:00 – 2:50 PM** and student work-based learning opportunities (externship rotations and community service projects). Each of the three externship rotations will be approximately five weeks in length, eight hours per week. Students will also be involved in six to eight hours of community service projects. Individual presentations and special assignments, reflecting learning activities from the workplace, are the culminating activities at the end of the semester.

Students will be monitored throughout their period of externship. Students keep a journal of their work experiences and meet weekly with the instructor to discuss their experience. The instructor also contacts each workplace mentor for an update on the student's progress and provides assistance with learning contracts or with problems in the externship. The instructor will make a minimum of two visits to the work site over the course of the semester to observe the student in the work setting.