

The Gamecock's Guide to a EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION



There are many ways to learn by doing.

Experience comes in many forms. Review the descriptions below to understand the variety of opportunities available that can help you build skills, explore career interests, and strengthen your resume while you continue your search.

INTERNSHIPS

Work experience that helps you explore a field and build skills, often over a semester or summer.

Example: *Help a marketing team create a campaign.*

CO-OPS

Paid work with an employer across multiple semesters, either alongside classes or alternating with academic terms.

Example: *Return to an engineering team for several work terms.*

EXTERNSHIPS

A brief introduction to a career through observation or shadowing. Some fields use the term for longer placements.

Example: *Observe a professional during a workplace visit.*

FELLOWSHIPS

Structured opportunities centered on a project, research, or professional development. Funding and eligibility vary, and some target graduates.

Example: *Complete a funded community research project.*

APPRENTICESHIPS

Paid employment that combines guided workplace training with related instruction to build skills in an occupation.

Example: *Train in an IT role while taking related classes.*

CLINICALS

Supervised experience in a healthcare setting where you practice skills and patient care appropriate to your training.

Example: *Complete a nursing rotation with clinical supervision.*

PRACTICUMS

Supervised field experience connected to coursework, with defined learning goals and opportunities to practice skills. Often unpaid and completed for academic credit.

Example: *Apply classroom methods in a school or community program.*

RESEARCH

Investigating a question through evidence, analysis, or creative inquiry, often with guidance from a faculty mentor.

Example: *Assist with a lab study or analyze interview data.*



OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

[SERVICE LEARNING](#)

Connect coursework with community priorities.

[STUDENT ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT](#)

Build skills, meet people, and contribute through student organizations and leadership roles.

[GLOBAL LEARNING](#)

Explore cultures through study abroad or local experiences.

[ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT](#)

Gain work experience and practice professional skills through a part-time campus job.

BEFORE YOU COMMIT

Confirm the duties, supervision, time commitment, pay, and any academic requirements. A position title alone does not tell you what you will learn.

STILL EXPLORING?

START WITH A CONVERSATION OR JOB SHADOW.

An [informational interview](#) lets you ask a professional about their career. [Job shadowing](#) helps you observe a role firsthand.



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