

Academic Credit vs ExEL Unit-Bearing Internships

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between an academic credit internship and an ExEL unit-bearing internship? Academic credit is overseen by your academic department (check [academic credit contact list](#)). An academic credit internship is an internship which offers academic credits and will place you in a university course with a faculty member overseeing your internship experience. A unit-bearing internship may be overseen by the Career Development Office or your academic department and offers the opportunity to earn one or two ExEL units for successful completion of the internship.

What steps do I need to take to obtain either an academic credit or unit-bearing internship? For details on the process you should follow for both academic credit and unit-bearing internships, reference the appropriate documents on the Career Development website on the internship page: www.nova.edu/internships.

Can I receive both academic credit and ExEL units for the same internship?

Yes, in some cases. If you are completing an academic internship, you may also be eligible to earn ExEL units – speak with your Career Advisor to clarify if you are eligible to earn both academic credit and ExEL units for an internship you plan to complete.

How many weeks is an academic credit or ExEL unit internship?

Internships can be a variety of lengths, from a few weeks to an entire semester, and sometimes longer. Be sure that you understand the requirements in place to earn the academic credit and/or ExEL units you intend to earn from completing an internship before you begin the internship.

Can I get paid and receive academic credit and ExEL units for an internship?

Yes, you can. Typically during fall and winter semesters a max of 20 hours per week of work is allowed and 40 hours are allowed during summer if no classes are being taken.

How do I know if I can earn academic credit for my internship?

Internships for academic credit are arranged through your academic department and require registration for an internship course. Speak with your academic department for more information about internships for academic credit in your major/minor.

If my internship experience is not aligned with my major can I receive ExEL units?

Internships should be aligned with your professional goals, which in most cases will likely be aligned with your major, but in some cases internships outside your major may be permissible for ExEL units. All internship sites must be approved by Career Development before ExEL units are granted.

What if my internship is unpaid?

Both paid and unpaid internships may qualify for academic credit and/or ExEL units.

How do I find an internship?

For both academic credit and ExEL unit-bearing internships, [schedule an appointment](#) with your Career Advisor to start creating your internship strategy today. Career Development is here to help you every step of the way! Utilize Handshake to [make an appointment](#) with your Career Advisor and to [search for internship opportunities](#).