

Academic Credit vs Unit Bearing Internship Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between an Academic Credit Internship and a 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 is overseen by the Career Development Office and offers ExEL units for your graduation requirement.

What steps do I need to take to obtain either an Academic Credit or Unit Bearing Internship?

For both experiences, follow the checklist provided online on the Career Development Office's website nova.edu/career/students/internships.

Can I receive both Academic Credit and ExEL Units?

Yes, if your academic internship course is an approved ExEL course you can receive both types of credit.

How many weeks is an Academic Credit or ExEL Unit internship?

Both internships last 14 weeks, with required midterm and final internship evaluations and a required reflection paper or presentation.

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 37.5 during summer if no classes are being taken.

How do I know if I can earn Academic Credit for my internship?

To receive academic credit the internship must align with your major or minor, and you must be working in the internship at the same time you are registered in the academic course.

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

Yes, the internship can be approved for ExEL and does not have to align with your major. The internship site must be approved by Career Development before ExEL units are granted.

What if my internship is unpaid?

Both paid and unpaid internships qualify for ExEL units.

How do I find an internship?

For both Academic Credit and 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!