

Field Observation Frequently Asked Questions

Who do I contact for Field Observation questions?

- Crystal Lopez - Offsite Experience Manager at c.lopez@sonoran.edu
- Lisa White – Field Observation Coordinator at l.white2@sonoran.edu

Is Field Observation a required course in my program of study?

- Yes

What are the requirements to participate in Field Observation?

- Must pass CLPR 5030.
- Must have records up to date with the Records Coordinator.
- Must have two days free on your didactic schedule.
- Must be in Quarter 4 and completed by no later than Quarter 8. **Note: If you are on the 4-year track, your didactic schedule will only allow you to take FO during Q4 or Q8**

How do I register for Field Observation?

- The Offsite Experience Manager will register you for Field Observation.

How many hours is Field Observation?

- Students will observe offsite at a private medical practice and onsite in the Sonoran University Medical Center.
- Offsite: 32 hours
- Sonoran University Medical Center: 12 hours
- Total: 44 hours and 4 credits

When am I scheduled for Field Observation?

- Quarter 4 Students – Thursdays and Fridays
- Quarter 8 Students – Mondays and Tuesdays
- Special Schedule Students – Varies. Must have at least one full day free on a didactic schedule.
- ***Days are subject to change**

Can I complete my Field Observation during the break?

- Yes! You are welcome to shadow during Fall or Spring Break only.
- Students must contact the Field Observation Coordinator 6 weeks prior to the break. Break weeks are not guaranteed and are on a first come first serve basis.
- Students requesting to complete Field Observation during a break must be available for the entire break.

Can I split time between Quarter 4, Quarter 8, and/or Break?

- No. You must complete all 44 hours in the quarter you are registered for.

Can I complete my Field Observation out of state?

- Yes! You can shadow out of state on a break in a licensed state.
- Please email the Field Observation Coordinator the name of the doctor and the name of the practice, the doctor and site will need to be approved.
- If you plan to observe out of state, please contact the Field Observation Coordinator at least 6 weeks prior to your observation.

Can I choose a doctor/ practice to observe?

- If you have a particular doctor or practice that you would like to observe, please note it on the questionnaire. Please email the Field Observation Coordinator to request a doctor or practice and provide the doctor's name and name of the practice. The Doctor and site need to be approved. We will try our best to accommodate your preferred doctor; however, it is not guaranteed, it depends on the doctor's availability and schedule. ***Note: If you have already been scheduled, you must attend the site you were assigned.***

I am completing Field Observation next quarter. What is expected from me?

- Read the Field Observation Student Handbook.
- Read and Sign the FAQ document.
- Attend the Mandatory Student Orientation.
- Return the Questionnaire & FAQ document to the Field Observation Coordinator.
- Read all tabs in Canvas and Sign Acknowledgement Form.
- When you receive your schedule, please call the site within one week of receiving your schedule to introduce yourself and ask about the dress code. Please give the doctor or office manager your contact information.

I noticed there are 2 open days on my didactic schedule. Can I use one as a personal day?

- Two days are blocked out on your didactic schedule to allow for Field Observation. Please be available on both days. The Field Observation schedule is based on the doctor's availability.

When will I receive my site information and schedule?

- You will receive an email from the Field Observation Coordinator before the start of the quarter that you are registered for Field Observation.

What is the Dress code?

- Once you receive placement, please contact the site to inquire about the dress code. If scrubs are not approved, please wear business attire.

The doctor I am assigned does not practice the modalities I requested:

- We have researched all our sites at length and feel certain our students will have an excellent experience at any of our approved sites. When we place students, we must consider several factors, including schedule, and availability.

Who do I contact to request a schedule change or make up?

- Please contact the Field Observation Coordinator for schedule changes.

What do I do if I am ill or if the physician will be out?

- If the physician is out, you are welcome to observe another provider at the practice if they offer. If this is not an option, please contact the Field Observation Coordinator. You can work with your mentoring physician to schedule the make-up hours.
- Note: Once the make-up hours are scheduled, please contact the Field Observation Coordinator, and give her the date and times.

Does the Field Observation course have assignments?

- Yes
- The following assignments are required to pass Field Observation.

- 1) Prerequisite forms prior to start date of shadowing.
- 2) Student Self Evaluation
- 3) Student Site Evaluation
- 4) **Physician Evaluation of Student (Please send the physician link the first week to your offsite mentor physician).**
- 5) Journal
- 6) Timesheet

Do I need to complete the assignments for my Offsite and Medical Center Observation?

- All the assignments listed above are required for your Offsite Observation
- **Only the timesheet is need for your observation in the Medical Center**

Note: The purpose of the Medical Center Observation is to allow students the opportunity to observe what a clinic shift looks like. **This is observation only.** Please do not ask questions.

Can I submit one timesheet for both my Offsite and Medical Center Observation?

- Yes
- The timesheet has a section for offsite hours and medical center hours.
- **Please request for your mentoring physician to initial after each shift.**

Clinical Grading System

- Satisfactory = Pass/Credit Earned
- Unsatisfactory= Fail/No Credit Earned
- You must complete 44 hours of observation and complete all assignments to receive a satisfactory grade for 6004.01 Clinical Field Observation.

Where are the assignments located?

- CANVAS
- Once you are registered for Field Observation you will have access to the Field Observation CANVAS page.

Are patient contacts different from observation hours?

- Yes
- You need 44 hours of observation and 40 patient contacts.

What is considered patient contact?

- Please refer to the Student Field Observation Handbook.
- You can receive multiple contacts per patient. Please contact the Field Observation Coordinator if you have questions about patient contacts.

Helpful notes for a positive experience:

- You are representing Sonoran University and will be observing your future colleagues. They will remember you! Professionalism is key.
- It is an honor to learn and observe with the doctors who have dedicated their time to mentor you. Please be respectful of their time and keep in mind that the FO schedule is determined by doctors' availability.
- When you first meet your mentoring physician, introduce yourself, and ask when questions are appropriate. You may also ask if you can take notes.
- After you receive your schedule, please reach out to the doctors within the first week to introduce yourself and inquire about your dress code. Please provide your contact number in case the doctor is out sick on the assigned shift day.
- Please read the following: Student Field Observation Handbook, CANVAS Instructions, and the Frequently Asked Questions document.
- Check your email regularly. This is how we communicate with you. If you receive an email from The Field Observation Coordinator or Offsite Experience Manager, it is important that you read the email in its entirety and respond if necessary.
- If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Field Observation Coordinator or Offsite Experience Manager. We are here to help!
- Enjoy this incredible opportunity!