EXTERNSHIP OVERVIEW

Ochsner is Louisiana’s largest not-for-profit health system. Ochsner is one of the largest independent academic health systems in the United States. These facts were obvious during my visit to the different departments and campuses on June 2 and 3.

OBSERVATIONS

The tours included the Respiratory, Med Lab, Physical Therapy, Nursing, and Speech Therapy on one day. The second day we visited the Elmwood Campus to find out about Telemedicine and Sports Medicine in the morning followed by a tour of the Child Development Center, a presentation on bullying and ended the day with tours of the Hematology/Oncology, Pharmacy and Imaging Departments.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- All of the lead representatives from each department were professionals—minimum college degree
- Employees in some departments can begin with an Associate Degree
- There are entry level positions with opportunities for advancements with additional training and experience.
- Industry certifications and licenses are requirements for some positions and for advancements.
- Customer Service skills are key for most entry level positions.
- Ochsner provides extensive training for employees to improve their skills and prepare them to other positions.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- Place more emphasis on the large number of positions that are available in health care
- Emphasize how Medical Assistant/Tech Training can lead to advanced positions in the health care industry.
- Educate students on the various industry-based certification and licenses required in health care
- Please more emphasis on Customer Service and other Soft Skills that are needed in health care and other industries.
- Students can get experience by volunteering and internships
- Job Shadowing can help students make career decisions.