

INTERNSHIP CONFERENCE SHEET

Name: Natalie Mecklenburg

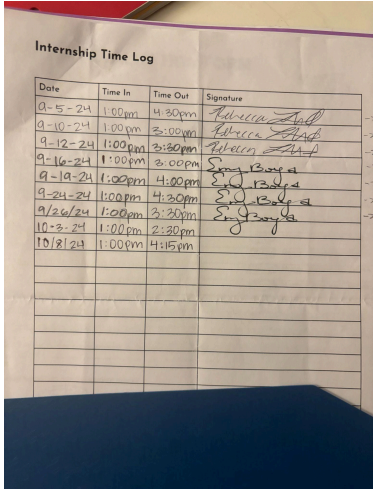
Conference Date: 9/27/24

Internship Placement: Hanger Clinic

SMART Goal I set last conference:

Overall goal: Get over 60 hours at my internship and achieve a better understanding about the prosthetic field and what it entails.

Steps I took to accomplish my SMART Goal:

STEPS TAKEN	EVIDENCE TO PROVE WHAT I DID
<p>Annotated Bib. I learned about a topic I had never heard about before: voluntary amputation. This helped me learn something new in the field of prosthetics.</p>	<p>https://docs.google.com/document/d/18bL-dbQVNXAdSg9iOI9AUx1i8PGFU2jzmsj6nyLOFj/edit</p>
<p>I consistently went to my internship twice a week and got at least 2 hours every time I went. This will help me work towards my goal of over 60 hours.</p>	 <p>Pic of time log</p>
<p>I also learned about the importance insurance has in the prosthetic industry. So many accidents are not</p>	<p>9/17/24 Journal</p> <p>“Today I worked with Brittney and saw one patient. He was a man who had a very traumatic</p>

covered by worker's comp, or insurance won't cover some types of prosthetics. This is where the insurance negotiating and questioning comes in. I didn't know this would be such a big discussion with every patient that comes in.

work accident to his arm. Two things especially stuck out to me today. One was that he had taken pictures of his arm directly after the accident. He showed them to me and it was definitely gory, but I am glad I got to see them. I mentioned in an earlier journal wanting exposure to all aspects of this industry and this was definitely one of them. The other interesting part of this patient was since it was a work accident and the company's fault, he was suing to get worker's compensation. This meant that once it gets processed, he could basically get any type of prosthetic arm, any add ons, etc. Insurance plays a big role in this industry which is something I didn't think about before. Brittany told me that also insurance is a lot harder to pay people who have upper limb amputations versus lower limbs, something I did not know."

REFLECT: Employability Skills

How have you shown growth with the employability goals you set at the beginning of this learning journey? Do you need to make any adjustments? Which skill has been the hardest for you to practice and improve? Why?

Citation skills: I think I slightly improved these with my first annotated bibliography. I used the recommended websites to brush up on how to cite my article source. In my first assessment of my goals, I mentioned being able to hone my citation skills in my English 101 class, but we haven't had to cite any outsider sources yet. I believe that as I continue writing annotated bibliography, I will not need to use the citation websites to see how to cite. I think as I practice, it will become easier to remember what to do.

Verbal communication: In my reflection, I mentioned wanting to improve my communication skills by maybe talking to patients. However, just shadowing the clinicians, I don't end up talking to too many patients unless they prompt the conversation, so this is a hard way to improve this skill. A lot of the time I can't offer too much to the conversation because it is about topics of prosthetics that I don't know about. I do think I have improved my communication with my mentor and other clinicians though. I only get to see my mentor once a week, so I really try to communicate thoroughly with her during that time. For example, I tell her what days I'm coming in, ask if she needs anything from me, and will ask her to please complete my evaluations or if we can set up a time for an interview. With the other clinicians, I have found myself becoming more comfortable and inquiring a lot more. I think this is one of the easier skills to improve as I am becoming more comfortable in my placement.

Creativity: I think these have grown a lot since I've been shadowing so much. During a patient's appointment, there is a lot of troubleshooting that the clinician does. They have to make multiple trips downstairs to the lab to fix any squeaking, discomfort, or other problems the patient has reported. As I've watched more, I have started to get an idea of what could be causing discomfort. Therefore, I think this skill has improved a lot in the short time I've started my internship, and will only continue to improve as I keep shadowing.

Initiative skills: This skill has improved since I first started. I was very nervous on my first day and ended up trying to talk to every clinician I met which made me a lot less nervous. Since then, I've taken initiative and talked to those same clinicians every time I come in. With patients, it's hard to take initiative and talk because I'm not qualified to talk about their prosthetics, so if I am making conversation it is just small talk. Other than that, I do take initiative when asking questions or wanting to see something in the lab. I think this especially has grown since my first day when I was extremely timid. This is a hard skill to grow because it is hard to take initiative when I am just shadowing. I can't really do any tasks, so the main initiative I take is asking questions and being comfortable with clinicians.

Goal-making skills: I think this skill has already grown due to my first smart goal. I have been steadily working towards over 60 hours and have found it to be a perfectly balanced, not too hard or too easy goal- I can't skip a week and expect to meet it, but it's also manageable with my schedule. I also have learned so much about prosthetics I didn't know. I learned about voluntary amputations, types of amputations, and even about the process of making prosthetics. I think I can grow this skill as I continue to make goals for myself. It is hard for me to make a goal that is balanced, but once I make it, I am very good at completing it.

Overall I think verbal communication has been the hardest part because it involves me coming out of my shell, and I also don't have a lot of opportunities to talk with patients.

REFLECT: Learning New Content

What have you learned this month about yourself and this career field?

I learned that prosthetics is not always a glamorous field. It's not just seeing patients and helping them, but also seeing patients who struggle and helping them wholeheartedly. I heard some gory stories and saw bloody images, but these are important to see to understand patients. I think this is important to know if I do want to go into this field. I am glad that I am not too squeamish either, because if I was I don't think this would be the career for me.

GOAL SETTING

SMART Goal I am going to work on for next month: I want to explore some uncommon prosthetic types through my annotated bibliographies. I hope to find one article or video on an uncommon type of prosthetic device for my October annotated bibliography

Evidence I can bring in to show that I accomplished my SMART Goal:

annotated bib