Structured learning experiences in the real world help students link theory to practice. Students also learn about communication, teamwork, setting goals, client needs, and the social, economic and political forces that influence professionals who work in the food, nutrition and health fields. Students can earn credit for a planned field experience through NS 4020, Supervised Fieldwork.

**Examples of NS 4020 Field Experiences:**

- **Nutrition and fitness:** Advanced nutrition students serve as nutrition counselors to student athletes and members of local fitness clubs.
- **Community nutrition:** Students work with local Cooperative Extension professionals and others in developing and pilot testing educational programs for adults and children.
- **Nutrition and business:** Students intern with a local software firm to learn about developing and testing food composition data bases, dietary assessment instruments, and food management programs for use by the health care industry.
- **Nutrition and health care:** Students examine how nutritionists and other health care practitioners treat and counsel patients with different conditions and the many factors that influence how these professionals conduct their work.

**Guidelines for NS 4020:**

- The experience must be planned in advance with a faculty member and have explicit goals and expected outcomes.
- The experience must have ongoing faculty involvement in all phases through regular conferences in person, by phone, or by e-mail.
- The experience must have a reflective component, such as analysis of a journal or systematic record of the experience to allow the student to consider feelings and attitudes about the experience as well as understandings about applications of classroom learning to practice.
- The student’s work must be evaluated by the faculty member and the bases on which the grade will be determined must be agreed on in advance. Grades may be based on journals, papers, oral presentations, input from field supervisors, and/or other materials developed as part of the experience. The number of credits must be determined in advance. For 1 academic credit, the student should be working in the placement or on materials relevant to the placement an average of 3-4 hours per week for 14 weeks. This time is in addition to that spent with the faculty member.
- **Register for NS 4020 online:** [https://students.human.cornell.edu/student/](https://students.human.cornell.edu/student/). Before the form is submitted, the student and the faculty member should discuss details and outline the agreement for the content of field work. Once the form is submitted, the faculty member and the Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies in DNS will approve it online. There is a 4 credit maximum per semester. **NOTE - IMPORTANT PREREQUISITE:** Before NS 4020 can be taken for a letter grade, the course must be first be taken as S/U for at least 2 credits. After the course has been successfully completed for at least 2 credits S/U, the student may then request to take the course for a letter grade if they choose. They can also take it again as S/U.

**Other Field Experiences:**

The Urban Semester Program in New York City is another excellent opportunity to gain field experience. Information about this program is available through the Human Ecology Career Development Center, 162 MVR Hall.