



THE SPORTS INTERN INDUSTRY INSIDER

JENN HERNANDEZ

MEDICAL AND LICENSING COORDINATOR
ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP (UFC)



Jenn Hernandez is the **Medical and Licensing Coordinator for the Ultimate Fighting Championship**. In this role, she oversees the medical and regulatory process that ensures fighters are cleared to compete.

She manages pre-fight requirements for UFC Pay-Per-Views, Fight Nights, and Zuffa Boxing, and supports the athletes post-fight by facilitating follow-up care for injuries, working alongside Performance Institute physical therapists and the UFC's chief medical physician. It's a role that combines skill with care, which she enjoys.

➤ CAREER PIVOT:

Before working in sports, Jenn spent 12 years as an executive assistant in the medical industry, but her true passion was always in sports with hopes of working for one of three dream organizations: the UFC, LA Lakers, or LA Rams. She enrolled in the Sport Management Master's program at CSU Long Beach, and while earning her degree, she secured internships at the Rose Bowl Stadium and with the LA Dodgers. These roles exposed her to event operations, customer experience, and the day-to-day energy of major sports properties.

They weren't necessarily her "dream" internships, but they helped her build the skills and network that would move her forward. She then landed her first sports job with Draft Kings as a Guest Associate, and then moved to Las Vegas to become a Raiders Ambassador, knowing her ultimate dream was to work with the UFC.

➤ LOOKING AHEAD:

While she's thrilled to be working at the UFC, she's already thinking about the next chapter. She wants to grow inside the UFC and make a lateral move to the event management and operations space.



JENN'S ADVICE

- Take all the internships – even if they're not glamorous. You never know what you're going to learn or get to see. Every internship helps build your mindset and, in the long run, will all make sense when you're in the position you want to be.
- Keep your options open when it comes to roles and departments, and dream big. Your path may not be linear and may require pivots, but it's all part of building the career (and life) you want.