



The Importance of Your Internship

The importance of your internship experience cannot be overstated. Your internship provides you an opportunity to apply your classroom's abstract and theoretical knowledge into practical, real-life work experiences with live co-workers, doing actual work that your job entails. No longer is simply a classroom education with a high GPA enough. Employers want to see the multi-dimensional thinking necessary to succeed in the ever-dynamic and ever-changing workplace.

Your internship provides an opportunity for you to demonstrate an understanding and ability to think logically and to execute a plan. Your internship experience also goes on your resume (in your toolbox) and increases your chances of being hired for full-time employment. Further, your internship can boost your self-confidence and self-esteem as you transition from college to the work environment.

Expectations of Yourself and Your Internship Experience

As you enter your internship, you should have expectations of yourself and how well you perform during your internship. You should ask yourself:

- Do I know what my assigned duties are?
- Do I know what problems I'm expected to solve and which ones should be escalated to my supervisor or others?
- Will I show up for work on time each day, and be prepared to work once I get there?
- Will I show interest in my assigned tasks, and complete those tasks as efficiently and effectively as possible?
- Will I be a positive influence in the workplace?
- Will I get along with my co-workers and show interest in their work as well as my own work?

Note: You should assess your status at periodic intervals during your internship.

Your Employer's Expectations of You

Likewise, your employer will see you on a day-to-day basis and will evaluate you in such areas as:

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- Did you show up for "work" on time?
- Did you show interest in the work you were assigned to do?
- Did you show proficiency in what you brought to the workplace and learn various tasks easily?
- Did you show initiative to go above and beyond the call of duty?
- Were you a positive influence in the workplace?

Note: Not every, but many internships have the possibility of developing into full-time employment. If you have successfully performed in your internship, you will have some necessary tools/skills to help you succeed in your full-time employment.