Planning for an Internship: One Year (or More) Ahead

Finding a great internship that will jump-start your career begins with YOU! By now, you probably know your skills and strengths. If not, there’s no better time to check out the Advising and Career Exploration Services.

Consider the questions in the sidebar to determine the type and location of a desirable future internship. Your internship need not be in your emphasis area; a general business internship will suffice. An internship in your emphasis might be most beneficial, however. Planning ahead increases the chances of obtaining the right opportunity.

Why is finding a position that is a “good fit” important when your main concern might be identifying an opportunity that fulfills degree requirements? It’s because a majority of interns receive job offers, though there are no guarantees. A recent study of human resource managers (SHRM, 2013) whose firms plan to hire or have hired student interns showed that 78% offered full-time positions to anywhere from 1% to 99% of those students.

You might wonder why the School of Business doesn’t provide an internship for you. That is because the skills you cultivate when seeking an internship are identical to those you’ll need in a job search if you are not offered a position following the internship or decide not to accept it.

Here are five steps for obtaining a winning internship:

1. Do your “homework”!
2. Network strategically.
3. Be #1.
4. Use campus resource tools and the Web.
5. Follow up.

These steps will be discussed in postings over subsequent weeks. In the meantime, more specific information about School of Business internships and two video clips featuring past successful interns appear here. Feel free to contact Marge Karsten with any additional questions.


One Year Out: Internship Questions to Consider:

- Do you want an internship in your emphasis area? Or will any business internship do?
- Do you prefer a certain geographical area? Or do you want an internship in a city where you might want to live someday?
- Would you consider an international internship?
- Do you want to be an intern at a private, for-profit firm?
- Would you consider a public sector organization?
- Do you prefer a large or small organization?
- Would you consider interning at a start-up firm?