Introduction to Career Experiences

Internship Programs | Micro-Internships | Job Shadow
Leveraging Your Current Job | Volunteer Experiences
Self-Driven Projects | "Make-your-own" Internship
Whether you're planning on working a full or part-time job, seeking an internship, or you're still figuring it all out, there are a lot of great ways for you to seek career experiences that help you explore careers, build important skills, or create a portfolio.

Here are six ways you can build a bridge to your career!
1. Internship Programs

“Recent graduates who had a relevant job or internship while in school were more than twice as likely to acquire a good job immediately after graduation.” —Gallup

Internships run the gamut from full-time summer jobs to part-time career experiences that are offered EVERY quarter! Many are paid, but even un-paid opportunities might be eligible for DePaul funding!

Different industries recruit on different timelines, and there are an increasing number of remote internships!
While summer internships for business and technology often recruit in the Fall, most summer opportunities in other fields begin showing up in January and peak in March. There are exceptions, of course, especially for funded internships that target underrepresented students.

Academic year internships are usually posted a couple of months prior to the start date.
Career assessments help you identify your personal strengths and weaknesses - as well as your interests and passions. Using these as reference points, you can map optional career paths that align with your goals and skills.

A unique part of this assessment is that CareerExplorer uses your answers to identify an “archetype,” which “represents the distilled essence of our members’ personalities...focused on the kinds of behavioral traits that affect people’s preferences for work, how they think, and how they work with one another.”
Micro-internships are project-based or short term engagements designed to provide experience for a college student or recent graduate in a field of choice, sometimes remotely.

These opportunities can be posted on job boards, like Parker Dewey (see callout), or they can be arranged by networking with employers or organizations.

Parker Dewey connects students to paid project-based micro-internships that provide the opportunity to build skills and explore careers.

http://info.parkerdewey.com/depaul
Job shadowing is following—or “shadowing”—a practicing professional as they go through their workday to help get a sense of that professional’s role or field. It’s typically short in duration, ranging from a day to a week, and can be set up as part of a formal program or arranged independently.

Find job shadow targets via:

- Your existing network of family or friends
- DePaul’s Alumni Sharing Knowledge
- DePaul alumni on LinkedIn
4. Leveraging Your Current Job

If you're already working a part or full-time job, keep in mind that many employers are open-minded about staff taking on new skill-based projects, shadowing other teams within the organization, or providing assistance with tasks outside of their current role's function.

Building new skills in an existing role can be a time-efficient way to get relevant experience. Plus, it builds your brand at work!

See our Build Relevant Experience in Any Job handout!
5. Passion Projects and Volunteer Experience

Self-driven projects are a great way to build skills and add to your resume and portfolio! You might take on a creative project you've been thinking about for a while or offer a specific service to a community organization, like developing a logo for a non-profit. Tap into the things you care about or the communities you are a part of to generate project ideas. Keep yourself accountable and fuel your passions by collaborating or sharing your work on social media!

For example: Interested in a music journalism career? Start a music blog and write album reviews!
6. Make-Your-Own Internship

What about a "make your own" internship?

PRO TIP:
You can approach an employer (especially a non-profit you're passionate about) and tell them you're applying for internship funding, and ask them if they are willing to host you - should you receive funding.

This is what we call a "make-your-own internship" opportunity!
The Internship Plus program was established to support DePaul University students participating in unpaid internships that demonstrate financial need. This program awards up to $2500 in financial assistance to eligible undergraduate students working in a quarter-long unpaid internship.

APPLICATIONS OPEN
- October 30, 2020

APPLICATIONS DUE
- November 30, 2020

Find more information HERE!
SPOTLIGHT ON: T. Howard Foundation

The T. Howard Foundation’s Internship Program is dedicated to improving the participation of diverse and underrepresented groups in the media and entertainment industry.

EARLY DEADLINE
- October 31, 2020

FINAL DEADLINE
- December 1, 2020

Find more information @ www.t-howard.org!
We are here for you!

Drop-in or schedule an appointment to meet with an advisor or coach!

Check out our 50+ handouts on career topics including resumes, networking, and career exploration.

We also just launched a page of COVID-specific career resources and tips.
JOIN A CAREER COMMUNITY!

Opt into a Career Community to receive exclusive email alerts, targeted job & internship postings, tailored industry resources, career advising, and more.

Regardless of your chosen major, you can explore multiple Career Communities and attend events across all industries – you’ll develop a great network for future opportunities and learn about a variety of career paths.

- Exploring Careers & Interests
- Business, Entrepreneurship & Consulting
- Education, Nonprofit & Government
- Health Care & Science
- Media, Communication, Arts & Entertainment
- Technology & Design
CAREER TOOLKIT

These 45 minute workshops offer tactical advice for every stage of your career journey! Anyone who RSVPs on Handshake will get a recording of the session with supplemental materials!

**Career Toolkit:**

**Job and Internship Search 101**
- Tuesday 10/20 6PM
- Wednesday 12/9 6PM

**Career Toolkit:**

**Networking in the Age of Social Distancing**
- Thursday 10/29 12PM

**Career Toolkit:**

**Project Managing Your Job Search**
- Wednesday 11/18 6PM
SKILLS LABS THURSDAYS @ 4!

Join us for our weekly 30 minute skills-based sessions. Anyone who RSVPs on Handshake will get a recording of the session with supplemental materials!