



5 TIPS FOR A PRODUCTIVE SUMMER

Classes are almost over! Whether you've had your internship rescinded, you're already planning on working a full or part-time job, or you're still figuring it all out, there are a lot of great ways for you to use whatever found time you have this summer to explore careers, build important skills, or create a portfolio.

If you're asking the question, "What now?," here are five actions you can take to build a bridge to your career:

1

CAREER RESEARCH AND UPSKILLING

Now is the time to dig into the careers that interest you. This might start with a self-assessment, like Career Explorer, or it might mean identifying the skills associated with roles that appeal to you. Once you have an idea for what kinds of skills would make you more competitive for a future internship or job, you can use your time to "upskill."

→ See our "Career Explorer" handout for instructions on how to use this tool!

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR UPSKILLING:

- LinkedIn Learning
- Professional Organizations
- Webinars
- Codecademy
- YouTube
- Coursera
- EdX
- Udemy
- Google
- Khan Academy

DePaul students can log in to LinkedIn Learning for unlimited free access to a vast online library of instructional videos covering the latest software, creative, business, and technical skills.



2

LEVERAGING YOUR SUMMER JOB

If you're working this summer, 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!

3

MICRO-INTERNSHIPS

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

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>

4

INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWS

Informational interviews can be an incredibly productive, no-pressure way to learn about a field, explore career paths, and build your network of contacts. They offer the opportunity for you to talk with professionals about their career path, profession, organization, and industry. These conversations can take place in-person, via phone, Zoom, or Google Hangout.

When searching for professionals to connect with, definitely consider targeting DePaul alumni. They are often the most open to speaking with students and recent graduates of their alma mater.

PLACES TO LOOK:

- LinkedIn
- Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK)
- Family
- Friends
- Professional Orgs



Remember, people like to talk about themselves, so this should be fun for both of you!

5

PASSION PROJECTS AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Self-driven projects are a great way to build skills and add to your 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!

→ Interested in a music journalism career? Start a music blog and write album reviews!

