CAREER EXPERIENCES 101

There are many ways to gain relevant experience to support your career readiness!

Career Experiences are opportunities that give you hands-on experience in an industry or role related to your career goals. At the center of a career experience is learning: applying what you are learning in the classroom to a professional setting, honing and building skills, gaining valuable experience and knowledge, exploring career options, and growing your social cultural capital.

Internships

Internships are a defined-term position, usually in an academic quarter or summer, that provides professional experience for a student or trainee. You may be assigned to a specific project, work in a specific job role, or complete tasks as assigned day to day. Internships can be paid or unpaid, full- or part-time. Students can sometimes earn academic credit for the experience.

On-Campus Employment

An on-campus job allows you to gain career-relevant skills in a flexible environment. DePaul offers a wide variety of on-campus jobs, from help desk positions to office assistants and many more. You can enhance the career benefit of your on-campus job by taking the initiative to ask for specific projects, help solve problems, network with faculty and staff—all while building your personal brand. Find open positions at studentemployment.depaul.edu.

Part-Time Employment

A part-time job is a great way to build your skillset and gain resume-worthy experience without committing to one 40+ hour-per-week role. When looking to build relevant experience in your part-time job, start by identifying the skills you would like to acquire and then seek opportunities that will allow you to gain and practice those skills on the job.

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 are rarely posted on job/internship boards. Instead, they're usually arranged by networking with employers.

For more information and details about any of the opportunities above, scan this QR code!

Academic Research or Field Study

Academic research or field studies broaden your experience and knowledge through research or hands-on work experience in a subject of interest. Often conducted working one-on-one with a faculty member or through a sponsor organization outside of the university.

Volunteering

A great way to gain both practical experience and personal fulfillment–you can volunteer as an individual or as part of a group or organization. Whether directly related to your major or not, volunteer experience impresses employers.

Job Shadowing

Job shadowing is defined as following a professional as they go through their workday to observe and learn–this can be a one-time/ one-day experience or multiple days over a period of time.

Informational Interview

Informational interviews are a low-pressure, highly productive way to learn about a field, get career advice, build your network and hone your interviewing skills. They are an opportunity for you to talk with professionals about their career path, profession, organization and industry. These conversations can take place via phone or email, but it's better when conducted in person.

Student Teaching

Student teaching is a full-time, immersive experience in which students are placed in a real classroom setting to learn and observe from experienced teachers and applying their own knowledge and skills from their studies.

Freelancing/Contract/Gig roles

This is short-term, project-based or contract-based work. Freelancers are essentially self-employed, which offers a lot of flexibility in terms of where, how and whom to work with and for. Succeeding as a freelancer requires a smart approach to managing your time and money, especially as a student. Knowing how much your time is worth is KEY to being successful in this space.

Job Simulations

There are websites like Forage that are a great and free resource that connects you with a variety of job simulations and courses, allowing you the opportunity to apply and test out your knowledge and skills.

Student Involvement

Becoming involved on campus–in a student organization or other student-led group–is a great way to dive into campus culture and to gain career experiences and transferable skills –like event planning, fundraising, social media, collaboration, or leadership.