

20 College to Career

COLLEGE AS PREPARATION

College students are strongly urged to begin in their freshman year preparing for the world of work. By the time a student completes his or her senior year, he or she should have accomplished some, if not all, of the following worthwhile activities:

- Career Testing
- Attend Career Fairs
- Join Professional Organizations
- Visit College Career Center
- Internship or Part-time Job in Your Field
- Establish Professional Contacts
- Voluntary Community Service
- Attend Career Skills Workshops
- Read Non-Class Material Related to Your Field
- Attend a Professional Convention
- Assume a Leadership Position
- Participate in a Campus-Wide Project
- Join a Campus Organization
- Talk with Your Professor about Your Career

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

College students have available to them a wealth of on-campus opportunities related to their professional and personal growth. Most universities offer, at little to no cost, numerous services, resources, and activities that might be beneficial to the students' development. Students should take advantage of the many social, cultural, and recreational activities that take place on campus, including concerts, art shows, guest speakers, plays, and sporting events. A variety of support services, including tutoring, counseling, advising, special training, and assessments, await the student who realizes the intrinsic value of these offerings. Also available throughout the school year are career information fairs, employment conferences, career issues forums, and job skills workshops. The extent to which students take advantage of the resources offered for their development will be reflected in their level of preparedness and employability upon graduation.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Employers continually express a strong preference for candidates with experience that extends beyond academic credentials. With more and more college graduates entering today's competitive job market, it becomes necessary for candidates to demonstrate how their college experience yielded more than just a degree. Employers seek candidates who gained additional or co-curricular experience during their college tenure through involvement in campus organizations, internships, community service projects, and part-time jobs.

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

Through active participation in campus clubs and organizations, students are provided an opportunity to use and develop their skills in leadership, interpersonal relations, event planning, committee membership, fund raising, and a variety of other skills that can easily transfer to the workplace. Volunteer activities also offer students a chance to gain valuable experience through a wide range of community service projects and philanthropic efforts.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Practical experience in a risk-free environment can be gained through internships, cooperative education programs, and part-time or temporary jobs. In addition to acquiring career-related knowledge and skills, students are able to make important personal contacts within their field of interest. It is a chance for them to "get their foot in the door." Moreover, candidates with experience have a better chance in the job market than candidates without experience. Experience need not be in the form of a paid or fulltime job in order to be relevant. Valuable experience -- experience that will look good on a resume -- might be gained in any number of part-time or voluntary settings. Some of the best experience students' gain takes place on the college campus.