

Increase Your Marketability to Graduate Schools and Employers

Things to do while in college:

- Be selective in choosing coursework and electives (major, minor, extras)
- Maintain a strong GPA (overall and in major)
- Pursue relevant part-time and summer jobs
- Pursue internships for experience in your field (more than one if possible)
 - Ask department staff about potential internships
 - Ask professors and other students about potential internships
 - Contact the UST Career Development Center for information on internships in your field.
- Consider study abroad or a visiting semester; take courses in your major area
- Participate in volunteer work or community service
- Become involved with, or initiate, research projects
 - Approach a professor you took a class with and ask if you can assist with a research project she/he is working on. Perhaps you can earn academic credits in your department and have it listed on your transcript.
 - Look on the web for paid summer research opportunities
 - Ask fellow students about research opportunities
 - Ask advisors about research opportunities
- Serve as a teaching assistant for a class
- Serve as a mentor, on campus or in the community
- Become involved in campus activities of any type that you find interesting
- Participate in athletics (intercollegiate or intramural), if so inclined
- Pursue leadership roles, policy-making opportunities, and positions of influence
- Join professional associations; attend their meetings/conferences; read the publications
- Build skills: computer, language, writing, presentation, analytical, helping, teaching, research, teamwork, leadership, networking, etc.
- Gain exposure to community resources, including potential employing organizations
- Begin and maintain a portfolio with evidence of activities and accomplishments
- Join honor societies when invited; participate in meetings and programs
- Develop strong recommendations from faculty, staff, and employers
- Demonstrate motivation and initiative through a willingness to "go above and beyond..."
- Gain exposure to and learn about many different kinds of people and cultures in varied settings
- Get advice from people you respect: instructors/professors, advisors and friends, family, fellow students, community members

Sources

- www.collegeseniors.net/
- career.berkeley.edu/Plan/Experience.stm
- www.collegeview.com/articles/CV/careers/preparing_early.html
- www2.mercer.edu/AAS/Pre-professional+Information/Preparing+for+Graduate+School.htm
- www.admissionsconsultants.com/medical/premed_advice.asp

University of St. Thomas Career Development Center Questions? Contact Us!

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