



Valuable Advice from Previous Students and Parents

We asked several hundred parents and students for advice they would give to other students and parents just starting the career launch process, whether for internships or full-time employment. Here is what they shared!

START EARLY

Start the search early, work your personal contacts, have students use LinkedIn to form contacts with alumni from their school.

Start looking early for whatever internships will help your career. The more the better! My kids got their jobs from their junior year internships!



I wish I had started reaching out to people already in the workforce earlier in my job search. Once I started reaching out to people directly, as opposed to just applying to jobs, I received much quicker responses in terms of interviews and what other open positions were available.

I wish I'd been in touch with various faculty on campus to ask for help. I wish I'd started sooner. I wish I'd had a good internship summer well before senior year.

Start early and get experience! It helps give them direction on their future. Without experience, there is no way of knowing if you are heading in the right direction.

TREAT CAREER PLANNING LIKE A JOB

I wish I would've known not to be so scared. At first I was really discouraged and I didn't want to do it but over time I realize that you miss 100% of the shots you don't take. I would rather fail 100 times than not have tried at all.

Feeling like I wasn't trying and giving up really took a toll on me. I felt stuck and now I don't.



Just keep looking. Even if you feel busy or overwhelmed, at least knowing that you tried again today helps that anxiety. I hated looking for this stuff but kept reminding myself "at least you did it" always made me feel a bit less anxious.

I wish I had been more open minded about the companies I chose to apply for to cast a broader network and get my resume out there. I also wish I had done more research and allotted more time to dedicate to the search process.

NETWORK, NETWORK, NETWORK

I wish I was more aggressive and had reached out to more people during my internship searches. That experience can be important when searching for a full-time job.

Internships are an excellent way for your student to narrow down what they may want to do when they get into the work force. They are also an excellent way to build relationships.

I wish I had known how important networking is. Some may call it unfair but I call it working smart. Network as much as you can and update your online profile/portfolios. Use websites such as LinkedIn or Indeed, outside of in-college research.

USE ALL YOUR RESOURCES

Have your student stay in touch with their advisor at least a few times per semester and know the requirements. Join clubs or service organizations within their major. Schedule appointment with career counselor.



I wish I had known that reaching out to high school alumni very early on would've helped (since they know the school and probably about you). And in general, just networking and establishing your presence in the industry you want a job/internship is crucial, even if you are just a freshman.

THE STUDENT MUST LEAD...

If your child is not motivated, don't force them to get an internship or try to steer them to a certain career path. Let them choose what they want to do, offer suggestions and helpful advice like "internships make you more desirable," etc, and try to connect them with colleagues that may work in their field of interest

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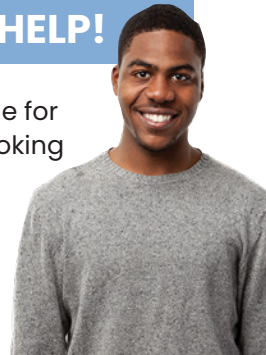
Start early, don't limit your area of focus to only what you like as a parent, and let the student drive the search. It's time to allow them to be completely independent.

...BUT IT'S OKAY TO SEEK HELP!

I should have reached out to more people for help and guidance when I first started looking as it may have not taken me as long to find something if I had.

Encourage your student to begin making connections, utilizing job fairs, and don't wait until the last minute to search for an internship/job. Discuss opportunities with professors and treat finding an internship like a one-credit hour class. It requires time and focus.

Go talk to your professors (and other professors that aren't your teachers). Send an email, offer times you are available, and just show that you want to be there. They have a lot of industry contacts that you do not have!



WHAT IS SUCCESS?

(HINT: IT'S MORE THAN THE PAYCHECK)

As long as she is happy doing what she studied. Her happiness is what matters the most.

Steady occupation in their fields of education. Happy with and proud of the work that they do.

As long as she is able to be independent thinker, worker, earner, steward, career professional then I would consider her a success.

I want my child to be constantly challenged in their career, to have growth opportunities, and to be confident and comfortable in the field they have chosen.



Working in a job that she can advance in, and is professionally fulfilling for her and using the study skills she graduated with.

Equipped to handle all adult responsibilities—landing and keeping a job, finding a place to live, reliable transportation and social support and being able to survive financially without outside help.