INTERNSHIP SEARCH PROCESS

Why Do an Internship?

- Gain “real world” experience while still in school.
- Provides an opportunity to “test drive” a career, which can help you feel confident in the career path you have decided to pursue, or help you realize that you need to consider additional/alternative options.
- Improves your post-graduation job prospects, as most employers would rather hire a candidate with relevant experience (the same is true for graduate school admissions committees).
- Many employers use internship programs as “talent pipelines” for permanent employment, so if you impress your internship employer, you’re likely to be hired full-time if jobs are available when you graduate.
- Having an internship on your resume sometimes leads to a higher salary in your first job.

Tips for the Search

- Start your internship search early! Companies often recruit interns 1 to 2 semesters in advance.
- Before you begin your search, schedule a 1:1 appointment with your career advisor. He or she has a wealth of knowledge, information, and resources available to point you in the right direction towards a great opportunity.
- Login to Hire-A-Niner and search for Internships and UPIP (University Professional Internship Program) positions.
- Review the University Career Center’s resources on job search strategies.
- Polish your resume and cover letter, preferably through stopping by the UCC during drop-in hours, or making an appointment with your career advisor. Practice your interviewing skills through a mock interview or InterviewStream so that you are prepared for a professional interview as well.
- Consider mid-size and small companies, not just large ones. Allot time for research into what employers are out there besides the “big names.” Also, if at all possible, don’t limit your search to paid opportunities; an unpaid opportunity may prove to be a good long-term investment.
- Do your research to determine if a company is a good cultural fit.
- Aim to complete at least 2-3 internships or experiential learning experiences to make yourself most competitive for the full-time job search.