Getting the Job You Want

ASU Engineering Career Center
Advice from a Technical Manager series
presented June 3, 2020
GETTING THE JOB YOU WANT – YOUR JOURNEY

- Grades Matter – Highly desired companies can pick from the top GPAs
- Engage Curiosity – Learn and explore so you really understand, learn to think laterally and strategically, experiment/try what you are learning (apply, stretch, break), engage in dialogs/discussions, ask the “stupid” questions
- Learn Quality and Process - understand quality and process and apply to class projects: SDLC, ITIL, PMP, 6-sigma, DFM/S, D/FMEA, 8-D, 5-Why, Requirements/Test Methodology
- Leadership Development – invest time in leadership training and communication skills
- Apply Learnings for Experience – clubs, competitions, community service
- Part-time Jobs: technicians/operations, gas station/garage, warehouse, restaurants, webservice
- Missions/Service: if no internship for the summer, volunteer
GETTING THE JOB YOU WANT - KNOWING PEOPLE MATTER

• Network where you are, engage people
  - Say hello, talk to strangers, ask them about themselves, practice your 5 second story, dialog
  1. Religious Gatherings
  2. Restaurants
  3. Chamber of Commerce Events
  4. Volunteer Events / Board Membership (eg. Project Cure - Young Professionals Network)
  5. Anywhere
• Join Professional Organization(s) – where you can participate, attend regional and national conferences if possible. Lots of internship and career opportunities!
  - SWE, SHPE, AIChE, IEEE, AME, SAE, ACMP
• Certification Organizations
  - SAFe, ITIL, APICS, PMI, NSPE, 6-Sigma
GETTING THE JOB YOU WANT – THE RESUME

• The Challenge: we want to know that you are a thinker and learner (in one page)
• GPA
• Include Honors / Awards
• Include work experience
  - speak to how it prepared you - responsibility, accountability, leadership, life skills
• Include class projects
• Include volunteer work

Highlight: Your passion, ability to learn, self-motivation, dedication, team/leadership skills, how you have processed a complex problem, broke it down, and delivered a solution!
GETTING THE JOB YOU WANT – THE INTERVIEW

• Self Awareness – who you are, what you want, how you impact others
  - Introspection
  - Seek and embrace feedback
  - Energy / Enthusiasm
  - Your story: not just your experience … values, passion, personal goals, vision, your why

• Research
  - Understand the companies you will see at the career fair/job interviews
    - What they do, who they hire and why, core values, culture
  - Form specific questions tailored to the company
  - How do you fit

• Conversation vs. Monologue
  - Highlight Reel
  - Purposeful Pause
  - Engage Audience / Listen Attentively / Ask Questions
  - Tone and Personality
  - Speak confidently on what you know, acknowledge what you do not
DURING YOUR INTERNSHIPS OR WHEN YOU START FULL-TIME

- Understand and set goals
- Plan and track your execution
- Communicate often: status, challenges, help needed
- Self Directed / Self Motivated
- Seek input/feedback
- Engage curiosity
- Be prepared / plan ahead
- Teamwork
- Demonstrate persistence and resilience
- Build strategic thinking skills
- Deliver your highest quality work every time
- Know the value of your internship experience – to you and your employer
- Create a network / Connect with your team and other interns both inside and outside of work, say “yes” even when you may not normally

- Hard Lessons Learned:
  - Failed to deliver on goals, did not plan execution or communicate challenges or help needed
  - Missed key messaging in internship presentation, failed to prepare in advance to receive input
  - Focus on self and not the value of internship work
  - Delivery of incomplete work by failing to engage curiosity and understand objective, focus on quality, or think strategically how to best achieve the goal
  - Project was easier than anticipated or was underloaded for periods of time – don’t be afraid to ask for more work!