

# Parent guide to career planning

[career.engineering.asu.edu](http://career.engineering.asu.edu)



While students are finding their way around a completely new environment, parents are wondering what needs to happen to ensure career success. **Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering** students have their own career center designed to connect students with employers seeking technical talent. As a parent, you are an important partner and can provide valuable support to help your student with career planning.

## Here's how you can help

**Support your first-year student's participation in our events so that they begin to understand how to be prepared for career opportunities, both for internships and full-time positions.** We encourage first year students to participate in our events — especially ones targeted to first year students — so that they start to understand how to be prepared for career opportunities, both for internships and full time positions.

**Academic focus** Encourage your student to concentrate on academics. A strong GPA creates the foundation needed for more advanced coursework and demonstrates academic commitment, technical competency and time management to future employers. Employers want to see student GPA on résumés and will use this as a tool to screen applicants.

**Clubs and organizations** Engagement with professional student organizations gives students early opportunities to understand how engineers apply their skills in different industries. At the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, we have more than 60 student organizations which are aligned by majors, interests and other areas.



Fulton Undergraduate Research Initiative (FURI)



Peer coaching in the Career Center



Emphasize the importance of early participation in these organizations to your student as a career-planning action.

**Career information** First year students typically have a full plate, adjusting to college and focusing on academics. Parents are more familiar with the work environment, and can help students see the correlation between academics and careers. By learning more about the Fulton Schools Career Center, you can help your student find information and resources.

- **Subscribe to Inner Circle**, the weekly Fulton Schools of Engineering e-newsletter
- **Read the weekly information** from the Fulton Schools of Engineering Career Center
- **Review [career.engineering.asu.edu](http://career.engineering.asu.edu)** for career events and 24/7 resources
- **Reinforce the value of early participation** in career readiness activities

**Career Center resources** Students need to be prepared to apply and interview when employers are hiring. Encourage your student to use the Fulton Schools of Engineering Career Center resources, starting in the first year. Students can meet with peer coaches and professional staff at a variety of locations on campus and virtually. At these locations, we provide:

- Tools to explore opportunities related to their major
- Résumé and cover letter writing aids
- Résumé reviews
- Practice interviews
- Job search information
- Individual support on career development topics

**Career Center events** The Fulton Schools of Engineering Career Center sponsors many events to expose students to career opportunities and related topics. Remind your student to attend opportunities to learn about various majors and industries:

- **Career Exploration Night and panels** Early opportunities to speak informally with professionals
- **Career Center workshops and events** Many specifically for first year students
- **Company-sponsored information sessions** and competitions

**Key events** Be aware of the career opportunity calendar, as it relates to the academic year. For Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering students:

- **September, October and Fall Career Fairs**  
Companies recruit for summer internships, as well as full-time openings for December and May graduates. This is the largest career event.
- **February, March and Spring Career Fairs**  
Companies recruit for remaining summer internships, as well as full-time openings for May as well as upcoming December graduates.

**Employer-offered internships, co-ops and other options** Both students and families want to understand how students can best prepare to get an internship. We see some students who do get hired as interns following their first year, but more typically companies hire interns after the sophomore and junior years. Other than internships and co-ops, students can build accomplishments for their résumés through various opportunities:

- Class projects
- Club and organization activities
- Independent projects
- Research, such as the Fulton Undergraduate Research Initiative (FURI)
- Study abroad
- Service learning, like the Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS)
- Part-time jobs (on- and off-campus)

These experiences can be during the school year and during the summer. Students who take advantage of these opportunities are aligned with employer priorities: experience, skills, teamwork, leadership and work ethic.

## Stay connected

Families and students are encouraged to connect with us on career events and development as well as internships, co-ops and full-time positions.

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