Experience the world of work

To see yourself in a career that aligns with your Purpose, it helps to put yourself in places where you can experience day-to-day life in the world of work. A great way of doing this is through gaining work experience through part-time jobs, internships and full-time summer jobs. These experiences allow you to immerse yourself in a career field, and reflect and integrate your classroom learning into what’s to come after college.

Research indicates that students who’ve held an internship earn 10% more over their lifetime than those who don’t. Why the increase? Interns can get a head start because internships today are equal to entry level jobs ten years ago. Most importantly, these work experiences provide opportunities to develop critical skills that new professionals need, such as critical thinking, interpersonal communication, and teamwork.

Internships and student work experiences come in many shapes and sizes. They also vary between career fields and employers.

- most employers will value your part-time job in a dining hall
- internships can be paid or unpaid, for-credit or not-for-credit
- internships and part time jobs can be held anytime during the year

find work experience

- Check out CareerNetwork.msu.edu under the “Jobs + Internships” tab to get started!
- Visit MSUjoinhandshake.com to discover part-time jobs and internships, career fairs, and employer campus visits:
  - “Follow” employers you’re interested in to be updated on their events and job postings
- Use the “location” and “keyword search” filters in the Jobs section
- Identify employers and contact them directly!
- Meet with a career advisor for your college to create an internship plan that fits your goals and interests.
- See pages 49-61 for more search strategy tips

How to make the most of your out-of-classroom experiences

- Find a mentor. Seek out relationships with employees who will coach you and answer your questions. Creating a network of supportive professionals during your work experiences is key in fostering lifelong career success.
- Take the initiative. Your employer will be impressed if you demonstrate that you can see a problem or issue and address it. When you take ownership in your work, you’ll find it more rewarding.
- Build relationships. Learning about your chosen field can be an enjoyable experience, and offer opportunities to create relationships. Use your LinkedIn account to stay connected!
- Be respectful. You will be working with professionals who have many more years of experience than you. Communicate respectfully to all employees, regardless of what position they hold. Remember that you do not have all the answers. At the same time, don’t be afraid to respectfully share your ideas.
- Take notes. You are working with an employer to learn about your potential career, and yourself! Take note of what you enjoy about the experience, or what you would do differently. Use the key skills on page 28 to track your skill development during your work experiences.

An internship is basically a learning experience outside of the classroom.

- Identified learning goals
- Supervisor emphasizes learning & mentoring
- Regular feedback and evaluation from supervisor
- Emphasis on professional development
- Emphasis on transferable skills
- The more you put into it, the more you get out of it!

What is an internship?
Develop skills with out-of-classroom experiences

Employers and grad schools want to see that you have work-related experience, regardless of your major. These experiences help you explore your purpose, get a head start in life after college, and further develop a broad range of important skills.

✔ MSU strives to cultivate “T-Shaped” graduates

At MSU, you’re developing a depth of knowledge from coursework related to your major and any minors. You’ll also be developing a breadth of knowledge from your general education classes as well as transferable skills from your out-of-classroom activities and experiences. Your time in and out of the classroom helps you explore and refine your purpose. See pages 18-19 to learn more!

Employers and grad schools look for students who have experience, regardless of your major. These experiences help you get a head start in life after college, and further develop a broad range of important skills.

Research has helped categorize key skills (competencies) that employers believe prepare you for a successful transition into the workplace. (Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers)

Key Skills:

▶ Critical Thinking/Problem Solving: analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems using knowledge, facts, and data

▶ Oral/Written Communications: articulate ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms

▶ Teamwork/Collaboration: work and collaborate a team structure; able to negotiate and manage conflict

▶ Digital Technology: leverage digital technologies to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals

▶ Leadership: Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others

▶ Professionalism/Work Ethic: Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits; demonstrates integrity and ethical behavior; learns from his/her mistakes

▶ Career Management: Identify and articulate personal skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals; identify areas necessary for professional growth

▶ Global/Intercultural Fluency: demonstrate openness, inclusiveness, sensitivity, and the ability to interact respectfully with all people and understand individuals’ differences

Your examples:

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Ways to get out-of-classroom experience:

- Internships
  - Both off- and on-campus

- Part time jobs (during school year)
  - Dining halls (freshmen start here!)
  - MSU offices and departments

- Summer jobs
  - East Lansing, home town, etc.

- Undergrad research
  - MSU professor projects
  - MSU labs and centers

- Entrepreneurship (start-ups)
  - The Hatch (student incubator)
  - Student-run MSU programs

- Student Organizations (professional)
  - PRSSA, Finance Association, etc.

- Student Organizations (social)
  - Sororities & fraternities, etc.

- Student Organizations (personal interests)
  - Ski Club, Graphic Novels Club, etc.

- Volunteering / Community Service

Don’t forget! Hands-on experience coursework:

- Education Abroad
  - Domestic “study away”
  - International

- Field work class assignments
  - MSU campus and farms
  - Off campus field trips

- Community-engaged learning assignments

- Group projects and presentations

- Technology development
  - Websites, apps, games, etc.

- Capstone class projects and competitions

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CULINARY SERVICES

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(More study and “you” time!)

jobs.rhs.msu.edu