

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Career Services Division of Academic Affairs

Career Fair Prep Workshop

Tues / October 8 / 5:00pm-7:00pm Holmes Student Center, Capitol Room All-Majors Internship & Job Fair Wed / October 16: 10:00am-3:00pm NIU Convocation Center Huskie Bus Line: Route 2R or 2L Free Admission/Parking

*There are more career-related events and workshops for the 2019-2020 academic year. Visit our website, <u>gethired.niu.edu</u>, for details and updates!

Steps to Internship and Job Fair Success

Before the Fair

- Attend: Career Fair Prep Workshop—see date, time, and location above. Learn to navigate the fairs and create your elevator speech.
- Download: Careers by Symplicity App and select NIU's Huskies Get Hired as your school. Free through the App Store or Google Play.
- □ Check out the list of employers: <u>careerfairs.niu.edu</u> or through your <u>Huskies Get Hired</u> account.
- □ **Research the companies.** Show employers that you know what they are all about.
- Prepare and practice your elevator speech <u>and</u> answers to potential interview questions employers may ask the day of the fair. What makes you a good match for an employer's needs? What makes you stand out from the crowd? Summarize this into a brief introduction for recruiters. For help visit <u>interview.niu.edu</u>.
- Dress professionally: Suit jacket and pants/skirt in matching solid, dark color with neutral color dress shirt. Conservative tie. Dress shoes/closed-toe heels.

At the Fair

- Arrive early. Make your impression while employers are still fresh and all are in attendance.
- □ What to Bring: Several résumé copies, a calendar to track interview dates, a notepad for writing notes about employers you meet, and a folder for holding company information you are given.
- □ **Prioritize the employers you want to meet.** When you arrive, you will receive an employer guide. Use this guide and the *Careers by Symplicity App* to prioritize and map out employer table locations. Visit high priority employers only after you start feeling comfortable and confident in your approach. *Don't spend all your time standing in one long line.*
- Be assertive, courteous, and confident when you approach employers. Smile! Recruiters want to meet you. Insert your elevator speech into the conversation. Some employers may conduct short interviews at their table during the career fair. For help preparing answers visit interview.niu.edu.
- Ask questions about the position, the training, and the company. Do not ask about salary.
- □ **Request business cards** from recruiters. Send thank you emails when you get home.
- □ Write a few notes about key topics after you talk with recruiters.
- □ **Need help?** Find a Career Services staff member for on-the-spot coaching.

After the Fair



Search and apply for jobs and internships. Upload your resume and cover letter. Schedule

on-campus interviews. Publish your resume in the "resume book" so that employers can view your qualifications. Find career advice. **Big Interview is here!** Improve your interview skills by using <u>Big Interview</u>, an online program you can use to video-record practice interviews and get feedback. Free Big Interview accounts are available to all students and alumni. For help, drop-in services are available M-F, 10:00am to3:00pm, in CLB 220. Find additional interview resources @ interview.niu.edu.

Get prepared—visit Career Services. Drop-in services for resume and interview assistance available M-F, 10:00am to 3:00pm, CLB 220.

