

# Why Intern?

---



## **Clarify and Fine Tune Career Goals**

People primarily intern to either confirm, through real world experience, if the career they are pursuing is a good fit for them or to gain work experience to make themselves more competitive in the labor market. You may also be able to earn academic credit. Confirming career direction is critical to ensuring, as much as is ever possible, that the investment of effort, time and expense we put into career preparation is worthwhile.

## **Test Drive Your Career**

Gaining a first hand view of what it is like (similar to test driving a car prior to purchase) to work in a career can give us confidence that our career direction makes sense. People often pursue careers based more on prestige/image, pay or demand than on satisfaction. With an internship you make career decisions based on personal experience in your field without relying on untested assumptions or advice. Gaining work experience in your chosen field can jump-start your career by making you much more competitive in your job search at graduation. Your proven, relevant work experience builds your resume, adding a great deal of credibility.

## **Gain Job Search Skills**

One major benefit to being hired as an intern is that the process of not only identifying and searching for an internship but also the process of successfully getting hired is very similar to what it takes to get hired into a career position. You have an opportunity to become very practiced in the art of finding and getting a job.

## **Make Classroom Learning More Relevant**

The application of what you are learning can make the information you obtain from the classroom much more interesting and relevant. Theories and facts come to life when you understand why. With real world experience you will be able to ask better questions during class.