GET CONNECTED AND EXPLORE   P C

ALIGN YOUR SKILLS, VALUES AND GOALS WITH THE RIGHT EMPLOYER

Research employers before you apply:
- Organizational mission, vision, values, and culture
- Size and location of employer and service area
- Employer resources and benefits offered

Evaluate employer information along with your own self-knowledge:
- Does their mission reflect my own values?
- What training and professional development opportunities are offered?
- What industries, employer size, and environment are most appealing?

Sources for Finding Information
- CSUSM Career Center website, Handshake, Cougar Connect: www.csusm.edu/careers
- Employer websites
- Professional association websites
- Networking and informational interviews
- LinkedIn and social media
- Career fairs

GAIN RELEVANT EXPERIENCE   CM L T GF

Job candidates with relevant experience are viewed more favorably by employers.

Experience can take many forms:
- Part-time or full-time employment
- Internships (contact the Office of Internships: www.csusm.edu/internships)
- Volunteer, service learning or leadership experience
- Course-based projects or personal projects
- Find a mentor on Cougar Connect: www.csusm.peoplegrove.com

Benefits to Gaining Experience:
- Apply theory to practice, and acquire new skills
- Explore and make decisions about future career options
- Build your network of connections and potential references

Strategies for Success:
- Establish clear objectives with your supervisor
- Learn the organizational culture
- Document your new skills, projects, and responsibilities in your resume and online platforms such as LinkedIn or Handshake

Professional Associations
- Membership in professional associations is typically open to students with similar professional interests and goals (such as biotechnology, social work, human resources or journalism)
- Students can often join at reduced rates or for free
- Professional association websites include information about relevant jobs, graduate programs, and networking events
- Professional groups offer a great opportunity to connect with people already working in your field