

November Spotlight

Internship Helps Student Make an Important Career Decision

Have you completed an internship yet? Interested in doing an internship? Don't have a clue what internships are? Its ok â€” Internships are a great way for you to gain some valuable hands-on experience in a particular industry of work. If you are exploring possible career options (post UNCG) you should consider an internship. You can obtain internships in a wide-range of academic and work-related sectors. There are thousands of internships each year, all across the country â€” even here in Greensboro! In addition to the incredible hands-on experience, internships provide you with an opportunity to network (build relationships) with people in the industry and create a circle of professional associates for future endeavors. Lastly, internships help you explore a possible career path and discover whether or not certain career ambitions are feasible for you.



Meet Derrick Foust â€” a student here at UNCG. While gaining valuable experience in a particular area of career interest, Derrick learned a valuable lesson from his internship experience â€” and it resulted in a major change in his academic and career-related ambitions. Check it out!

Tell us about yourself.

My name is Derrick Foust. I am currently perusing a dual major in Women's and Gender Studies and African American Studies. This past summer, I participated in an un-paid internship as a Curatorial Intern at The Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New

Orleans, Louisiana. Currently, I work as the Advertising Manager for UNCG's student newspaper, The Carolinian, and a Peer Career Advisor for the UNCG Career Services Center.

Tell us about your internship.

At the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, I shadowed curators while learning professional museum practices and other various facets of searching, planning, and mounting exhibitions. In addition, I completed additional tasks including assembling artworks, setting up lighting, moving pedestals, and painting walls. Furthermore, I helped with museum outreach by editing documents such as press releases, columns, memos, outreach letters and e-mails.

How did you find your internship?

During the summer of 2010, I discovered the position through a former high school art teacher's post on Facebook. I was linked to the homepage â€” so I printed an application, filled it out, attached a resume and cover letter, and mailed it in. Initially, I did not receive a call and was asked to reapply the following summer. So in spring of 2011, I went to the UNCG Career Services Center to have my resume examined and I applied for several positions for the summer 2011. I received a call one afternoon and had a brief phone interview and two weeks later received an email notifying me of my move-in day.

What did you take away from your internship?

What I took away from my internship at The Ogden Museum of Southern Art was an experience like no other. Although my internship was fun, I realized very quickly I could not see myself doing it in the future. The internship helped me realize I needed to reconsider my academic future. So in the fall of 2011 I changed my major.

What are your future career plans?

In the future I plan to attend Graduate School for Higher Education so I can work for a college or university and help students.