



occupation professor
test. refine. discover your career.

Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2014

INTERNSHIPS AND MENTORSHIPS

IN THIS ISSUE

Gaining an Internship

Do you want that stellar job making decent money right out of college? Whether paid or unpaid, your chances of landing the gig are greater if you have an internship or two under your belt first. Internships serve value and importance for a variety of reasons and will impact your life long after those college years.

Not only will having an internship allow you to get your foot in the door with a potential employer, obtaining an internship will give you a glimpse of what working in the real world is all about. Working as an intern teaches you important skills like responsibility, time management, and on the job skills (e.g. computer skills, telephone skills, etc.). Such opportunities also allow you to pursue a major that you're interested in and inspire/confirm your career choice. Probably the most important aspect of gaining an internship is being able to connect with experienced people who can help you grow your network.

So, how do you go about finding an internship that is right for you? First of all, if you haven't obtained your career match from OccupationProfessor.com, consider checking it out first! Think about your goals and what you would like to do. Once you select an area of

interest or target career, there are a number of ways to find local internships. A few sites to find internships include:

- Internshipprograms.com
- GoAbroad.com
- Idealist.org
- Indeed.com

While these sites are certainly a good start, you may not find exactly what you are looking for here. Spend some time researching companies you are interested in, visit your campus career center, seek out a professional organization in the field, and use your network of contacts to find the best fit. Remember, you may have to volunteer your time or take an unpaid internship with many companies. Your time should definitely pay off down the road with the experience you gain with an internship.

Once you land the internship, be sure to put a ton of effort forth. Don't only learn a particular company and its products, but learn business as a whole. Make sure people remember you and your efforts while you worked there. If you don't gain a permanent/paid position, you can at least walk away with some great knowledge and references!

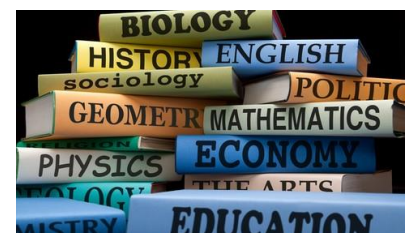
Internships



Finding a Mentor



OP Spotlight on Majors:



Finding a Mentor for Your Career

What exactly is a mentor? And how do you go about getting one? It's likely you have heard how helpful a mentor can be for your career, but what purpose does a mentor really serve? A mentor is someone in your field of interest that is more experienced (and typically older) that is willing to provide you with career guidance, advice and assistance.

There is no doubt that finding a mentor can help you in your career. So how do you find one? Most of the time, you will already know this person on some level - a coworker or someone else in your network. There is never a bad time to

get extra guidance for your career. Think about the people you know or someone a mutual friend could connect you with. There are also a few sites that can help, many through professional associations and organizations in your field. Identify someone you like and respect and set up a meeting.



Once you arrange a meeting, come prepared with some thoughts on what you want to gain from the relationship. See if the person would be open to such a relationship and establish a regular meeting schedule along with some topics you would like to discuss.

A couple of sites to check out:

- [MicroMentor](#)
- [SCORE Mentoring](#)



Spotlight on Majors: Engineering

What can I do with an Engineering major?

An Engineering major can lead to a broad range of technical occupations. Several major categories encompass this major and you will often need to select a more specific area. Aerospace, Biomedical, Chemical, Civil, Computer, Electrical, Environmental, Industrial, Mechanical, and Nuclear are most common. As a student, you will want to clearly define your goals and seek the experience and skills necessary to reach those goals. For more information on what types of careers you can have with an Engineering major, click [here](#).

What are the top ranking schools for an Engineering major?

US News ranks the top schools for earning your degree in Engineering: [Undergraduate](#) and [Graduate](#). According to [payscale.com](#), the best schools for an undergraduate degree in Engineering include:

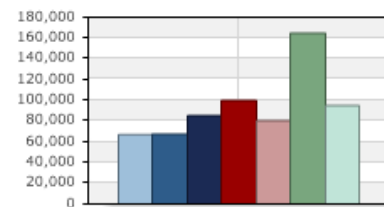
- Harvey Mudd College
- United States Naval Academy at Annapolis
- Stanford University
- Tufts University

You can also check out schools based on a variety of other rankings through [US News](#) and [The Princeton Review](#).

How much money can I make?

This is going to range dramatically depending on your expertise and degree. Check out specific degrees [here](#).

Median Salary by Job – Degree: Bachelor of Science (BS), Engineering (United States)



| | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| ■ Mechanical Engineer (49) | \$66,901 |
| ■ Project Engineer (41) | \$67,601 |
| ■ Project Manager, Engineering (32) | \$85,247 |
| ■ Operations Manager (31) | \$99,792 |
| ■ Electrical Engineer (26) | \$80,332 |
| ■ Vice President (VP), Operations (20) | \$164,848 |
| ■ General / Operations Manager (19) | \$95,000 |