



Why should you do an internship?

There are many reasons to pursue an internship:

1. Supplies opportunities for “hands-on” experiences. Internships allow students to gain direct work experiences in “real-life” situations.
2. Creates a broader understanding of communication by applying academic course work in professional environments. Students have opportunities to observe and understand the connections between course work and the world of work.
3. Grants opportunities to “sample” various career options in a relatively “low-risk” context. Students may do multiple internships for the purpose of sampling different career areas. This enables students to determine their best fit in a professional environment.
4. Prepares students for future job searches. Students design resumes, write cover letters, and interview as if they were applying for a job.
5. Helps define your specialties and communication expertise. This allows for sharper and more realistic career goals and aspirations.
6. Compilation of a portfolio. Some internships allow students to compile work samples for a portfolio. This portfolio can later be shown to potential employers.
7. Increases visibility for William Jewell College Communication and Theatre students. Students are given the opportunity to demonstrate their professionalism in internships. This enhances the reputation of the Department and the College and increases the credibility of students’ degrees.
8. Offers a confidence builder. Successful completion of an internship often gives a student the professional confidence necessary to begin the job search.
9. Provides a professional learning experience. Internships allow students opportunities to develop practical skills in realistic contexts where professional criticism is both immediate and constructive.
10. Aids in the identification of knowledge and skills essential to doing well in a particular profession.
11. Affords the opportunity to make contacts and network. Occasionally internships lead directly into employment opportunities. However, all internships provide students entry into a professional network. Contacts made through internships are valuable sources of information for securing future employment.
12. Gives you a more realistic perspective on the nature of work and a potential career.
13. Awards academic credit. Students may earn up to six hours of academic credit for qualifying internship experiences.