



Ready Reference D-23

What Freshmen Should Do At Career Fair

What Freshmen Should Do at Career Fair

A Career Fair is an excellent forum for students and employers to meet and interact. Whether seeking an internship, Co-op, full-time position, or additional industry information, CEAT students have a wealth of opportunities available through the variety of Career Fairs hosted by OSU and these are not events meant for only juniors and seniors!

Career Myths for Freshman and Sophomores:

Myth #1: "Career Fairs are just for seniors."

There are numerous companies attending the Career Fair that are interested in hiring co-ops and interns. Employers want the opportunity to speak with all types of students.

Myth #2: "I'm never going to get an internship as a freshman. Career Fairs are a waste of time!"

Many Freshman have received internship offers from career fairs. It is very worthwhile to still hand out resumes and make connections with potential employers. It is very possible you could walk away from Career Fair with a summer internship or co-op.

Myth #3: "I'm too young to be at a Career Fair, I don't even know what I would say to an employer!"

Participating in a Career Fair as a first or second year student is a great way to learn about companies you may want to work for in the near future. Also, learning how to speak professionally with employers is a valuable, life-long skill. If you research companies in advance, you can prepare what you'll say.

How the Conversation Might Go...

Student: Hello, my name is Jennifer Santos. I'm a freshman studying Industrial Engineering and Management with a minor in Data Analytics. I was really excited to get the chance to speak with you about "Company X" because I know you have a great reputation for collaboration and teamwork in the working environment.

Company X: Well, we're very happy you stopped by to speak with us Jennifer. What were some of the things you wanted to know?

Student: Well, I was wondering what types of skills and abilities your company looks for in potential employees? I would love to know more about "X" internship in X department or of any other internships or co-op opportunities within your company."

Company X: I'd be happy to answer those questions for you Jennifer...

You Can Use the Career Fair to...

- Explore possible internship and co-op possibilities!
- Learn more about potential career paths and interact with employers!
- Start building your professional network!

Tips to Make the Most of the Fair

- Research the Career Services website's list of employers to identify which employers to visit. Try to choose employers who may be less familiar names to increase your knowledge of careers and employers.
- Plan what you will wear to make a good impression; we suggest dress slacks and a button down shirt.
- Update your resume to show your college major and activities and bring several copies to the fair. Some employers may request a resume and this will show your preparedness.

- A career fair consists of many employer booths. Some may have materials on a table while others may have more extensive displays. Give yourself plenty of time to circulate among the various organizations.
- Consider what you will say to organization representatives. Your research of organizations should help you have some questions. A good starting point is with your own introduction, something like these:
- "My name is Pat and I am a freshman computer science major. I am exploring career fields and would like to learn how computer science is applied in your organization."
- "Hello, I am a freshman communication studies major and like how our website was really clear in how you serve customers. Can you tell me more about the types of people you have working in your organization?"
- If you have not yet declared a major, a career fair is still a great way to learn about options. You might ask the organization representative about their own major and how they use it in that organization.
- Remember that other students also want to visit with the employer, so politely thank the representative for their time. If you would like to follow up with the employer about future opportunities or information, request a business card from the representative.
- Career Services and other campus staff are available at the registration areas to help you. Do not hesitate to stop by and ask them questions.