6 Tips to Make the Most of Your Summer Experience

Information is adapted from Joan Kuhl’s article “10 tips for your summer internship.”

1. Define Your Brand – Brands can be considered the vibe and “feel” that an organization resonates. Branding comes from appearance, presence, and “the look” of an organization. When you think about Google, you probably hear terms such as “creative,” “modern,” and “innovative.” These are aspects of their brand. People also have brands, and these come from values, presence (both in-person and online), and work behaviors. Consider the things that are important to you, and determine how you can help solidify your brand.

2. Define Your Work and Leadership Styles – Take notes on how you work over the summer. Are you someone who organizes and plans your schedule effectively? Or are you someone who would rather “go with the flow?” Keep these things in mind and note your successes and areas for growth. When you arrive back in September, meet with a career counselor to take and interpret the Myers-Briggs Type Inventory (MBTI) assessment. This personality assessment will show you how you take in, process, and make meaning of your experiences.

Your Summer Welcome

The Career Services Center (CSC) staff wishes you a great start to the summer! It is quiet in the office and we are busy planning for a great fall semester. While you are away, please keep in mind that you can reach out to members of the office if you have questions or need additional support. We are here for you!

This is the first in a series of themed summer newsletters to encourage you to make the most of your summer experience, whether you have a job, an internship, are conducting research, or taking classes. Each newsletter will feature interesting information on aspects of the job search, networking, communication, etc., as well as fun information about staff (there have been changes!) and our Summer Contest Series (SCS).
6 Tips to Make the Most of Your Summer Experience (cont.)

3. Practice Your Introduction – Whether you are in an internship or a summer role, you will likely be meeting some new colleagues within your organization. Take this time to practice your eye contact, your handshake, and a bit of an “elevator speech” to make the most of these networking opportunities. Your elevator speech should be a 30-second introduction that outlines who you are, what you do, and how you have gotten to this point in your career. This will become useful when you pursue future internships, graduate school, or even your first career. Take the time to think about how you want to communicate you.

4. Find Mentors Within Your Organization – Upon meeting your colleagues, take note of individuals you would like to get to know better. These individuals can help you in your current organization or make connections to their peers at other companies. While there are different types of mentors, these individuals can help you navigate future internship opportunities, can offer career advice, and can put in a good word to the hiring manager.

5. Maintain a Strong Work Ethic – It is important to figure out your position responsibilities within the first few weeks in your role. Ask your supervisor or peers so you know what is needed to be successful. Additionally, make sure to request deadlines for your tasks so that you are able to meet these deadlines. Make sure to stick to the functions of your role, maximize your effectiveness, and avoid texting or perusing online during your work time.

6. Keep a Career Journal – Over the summer, get a journal or start logging your work activities on your computer. Jot down the tasks that you enjoyed, the things you didn’t enjoy, and the meaning you make out of your daily work. This reflection will be useful for you as you begin to think about articulating your wants and desires when searching for future internships or positions.

Summer Contest Series (#SCSatCSC)

Throughout the summer, we will be featuring contests in each of our newsletters to keep you informed with office happenings.

Contest 1: Summer Showcase

We want to hear about your summer! Like our Facebook page and follow our Twitter handle. Post or Tweet a selfie with some information about your summer. Remember to use the #SCSatCSC hashtag in order to enter into our contest. 3 winners will be selected by the staff and will be featured in our next newsletter. Winners will receive valuable CSC swag upon their return in the fall. Submissions will be accepted through June 30th.