

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: William Abel
Internship site: WDOD/WDEF Radio

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

I was an intern for WDOD/WDEF radio. I learned a little from every department (management, sales, production, etc.) and basically just helped out wherever I could.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

The fact that there wasn't just one thing going on. There were remotes to set up, there were sales calls to make, there were playlists to put together...and I even got to attend Riverbend for free. Not too bad at all.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

Honestly, my internship has nothing to do with my current employment options. For me, radio was very interesting, but I don't think I'll have a career in it. It was, however, an excellent resume builder. If you have the chance to put something on your resume, do it. Even if you're going to hate it or you don't think it's your dream job, do it. Every little bit makes you look better to prospective employers.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

Ask questions. Take the initiative. Don't sit around and wait for someone to lead you around by the hand and give you something to do. Ask your supervisor(s) to give you something, anything, to do. Be ready for any new challenges, even if you have no clue how to approach them. Figure them out. Think on your feet. Most of all, try to enjoy it. You're

going to graduate soon and this is your last chance to enjoy the college experience.

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Jennifer Adkins
Internship site: Chattanooga Times Free Press

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

I wrote Life articles for the Chattanooga Times Free Press on subjects and activities becoming extremely popular for young adults. I also wrote articles for the FYI Weekend section, which were basically previews for upcoming events in Chattanooga.

I went around to local bars in the area to take video of the bartender making the restaurant's signature drink. The video was used as an attraction for young adults on the FYI Weekend Web site. I also took videos to go alongside every Life article I wrote.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

I enjoyed the experience of writing for a reader and developing my own ideas into stories worth the reader's time. I also just really enjoyed the environment of working with a large newspaper staff.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

I hope that I made a contact with the business editor John Vass and I am going to talk to him about getting a job after college graduation. I was not hired by my supervisor because I am still in school and he wants someone who can work full time.

Otherwise, the internship improved my writing and gave me a portfolio worth showing in job interviews.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

First, take advantage of everyone and everything you see. Meet the people around you, who could possibly help you in the future. As a reporter, I made friends with the photographers, which turned out to be one of the best things I did at the newspaper. When art was not turned in with the articles or there was a last minute

photo shoot, they were there for me. Also, the more people you meet, the more opportunities you are creating for yourself in the future. I talked to the business editor and I got to write an article out of section. While taping one of my videos, I met the man who was doing the renovations to the old Tortilla Factory, which is where I got that business article idea. I cannot stress enough, keep your eyes and ears open, because something is guaranteed to fall in your lap. It's not hard to progress if you are aware of your surroundings and motivated to work.

Second, ask questions. One of the hardest things for me to learn was I could ask questions and people were more than willing to help. I am one of those people who like to be automatically good at what I do; however, it is so much easier to do your best work and evolve by simply seeking out appropriate people to ask. Also, you won't be as hung up on what you are working on and can get your projects done more efficiently and more effectively.

Third, know that sources can be unreliable. One thing I have learned is to always be ahead of my work, because if you are on deadline and a source falls through, then you are not in good shape. Working at the Chattanooga Times Free Press, I needed to be on top of everything I did.

Finally, be serious about writing the weekly diaries. I did not take these seriously at all. But I found as I wrote and sorted out what I did in the week that I developed a method/checklist to improve my work. I was better able to recognize what areas I needed improvement in and what areas I was strong in. This recognition can also help create a fantastic portfolio.

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Erin Elizabeth Buckley
Internship site: WTCL Public Television Summer 2008

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

I helped with the production of Antiques Roadshow, wrote many press releases, and had many random jobs. I worked beside Kevin Lusk and had a blast all summer.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

Learning from the staff at WTCL, they all had so much to offer. Also the Antiques Roadshow was very very fun to be a part of.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

I have not been hired by WTCL, but they defiantly gave me a set of skill that are priceless. Kevin is leaving for a new job and I am going to apply for his position at WTCL - the worst I'll hear is NO!

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

You get out what you put in! If you want to have a great time at your internship than have a great time at your internship. Be honest with your supervisor and tell her or him what you need or want to do.

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Rebekah Cantrell
Internship site: Mindflow Media

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

I was the main researcher and developer for two upcoming documentaries that will be produced by the company. I was in charge of getting these documentaries started and will continue to form them while they are in pre-production, production, and post production.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

I loved getting the opportunity to watch, learn, and help while shooting at various locations.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

It has helped me in a lot of ways because I was hired after my internship was over. It enabled me to gain confidence, get my foot in the door, and learn how a production company works. I even have the opportunity to go on a shoot in Florida for National Geographic so it has truly been a rewarding experience.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

Choose somewhere that you truly want to go. Don't just pick one because you have to but make sure that the company works in the area that you want to work in. If you don't know what you want to do exactly, pick somewhere that closely relates to what made you the happiest in the communications department. And don't be afraid to ask

questions when you are there. You will never get anywhere if you don't ask.

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Fred Giles

Internship site: Turner Studios Atlanta, GA

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

I helped with various projects for all the Turner Networks. I helped with on-site projects for CNN. I helped and worked with Turner Classic Movies, TruTV, Cartoon Network, TNT, TBS and a few more. I was able to help with lighting, set construction, audio and camera set ups as well as many other tasks in and out of the studio.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

I enjoyed being able to shadow the Technical Directors and learn from them as much as possible. Also, I was able to sit down at as many switchers and audio boards that I wanted to and learn from trial and error. The ability to learn anything you want is what I liked so much about this internship in particular. I have been able to work with people who have won Emmys for Technical Directing, Directing, set Production and in areas of lighting.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

This internship has not helped me get my career started but rather it gave it a huge boost. I was able to make great contacts, which should land me a job with a great company such as Turner.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

There are so many things that I could say towards advice but there are only a few that really count. I would say that being able to speak to people in a professional manner is a key that will open a door towards networking. Don't be afraid to email people within the company to set up a meeting to talking about a certain topic. People in high position like to talk about themselves and like it more when other people are interested in how they got where they are in that particular company. If you need anymore more grand advice of want to speak to me about the opportunities that are out in the world then email me at

fgiles@1dreamproductions.com

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Jennifer Hiett
Internship site: Williams Company (Printers)

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

I was a graphic design intern, so my responsibilities were to take on various projects such as business cards, brochures, mailers, newsletters or any miscellaneous pieces needing a new or updated design. I also updated the copy for the Williams website and oversaw several press checks.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

I enjoyed the variety of work I received. I was constantly learning new tricks in InDesign and Photoshop and being at a printing company, it was really neat to see the factory and my designed pieces coming straight off the press. I also really enjoyed my website project because I learned a lot about the company and all the services they offer.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

In my last week, Williams decided to hire me on as a full time entry-level designer.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

Have confidence and listen to their expertise. Don't be afraid to ask questions and trust your training. Even if you don't think they will hire you, always make a good impression with everyone you meet, because they are all potential contacts or could give you advice on how to advance your communication skills.

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Coti Howell
Internship site: Friends of the Festival

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

I assisted with daily public relations duties in the office. Since I'm very interested in Internet marketing, I conducted research on e-newsletters and worked on various website tasks. My favorite tasks were during Riverbend Festival, when I got to communicate with sponsors, assisted the VIP manager, and coordinated main artist meet and greets.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

I loved everything about it! The people were great and I got to meet so many people in lots of different fields.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

I was not hired by my Internship supervisor, but I did make lots of connections for possible jobs in the future.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

I think it's really important that they go into the experience with a completely open mind, willing to help with anything! This really helped me out a lot because I was never sure what to expect on any given day. Showing that you're versatile really impresses people and shows that you're willing to work hard.

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Bonnie Brooke Koger

Internship site: Orange Grove Center

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

I worked in the P.R. and Marketing field at Orange Grove Center. I worked on various events and promotional materials. I helped keep track of sold/unsold tickets for the Great Kiwanis Duck Race and I also designed a duck sticker for this event. I helped design a brochure for a department at OGC as well as various flyers for other events. Also, I wrote a media advisory and several press releases.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

Although the experience I received during this internship is priceless, I must say that my favorite part was meeting the clients of OGC and developing friendships with them.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

As of this current moment, I'm not 100% sure of the possibility of a future job in the P.R. and Marketing field at OGC, but I'm 85% sure there will be one. I would be glad to accept a job in this particular field at OGC and a few discussions have already taken place concerning this opportunity.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

My advice would be to work hard during your internship, but have fun while it lasts.

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Jimmy latham
Internship site: Chattanooga Neighbor Enterprises

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

I redesigned the website.

Did common tasks like filing and cleaning for supervisor.

I also got plenty of opportunities to meet with board members and big wigs in the business.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

The flexibility of the job. And the boss that I worked for.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

This internship help to show me the inner workings of a non-profit organization like CNE. It help to build my awareness of what to be looking for when I enter into the career world.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

Find and internship that pays. It's worth it.

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Michelle Lisotto

Internship site: CBL& Associates Properties, Inc/Hamilton Place Mall

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

During my internship I had the opportunity to learn all about shopping center marketing/advertising/public relations. I worked on everything from back to school promotions, to sponsorships, to writing press releases for shopping center grand re-openings & creating sales spreadsheets.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

What I enjoyed most about my internship was that I felt like I was doing something I loved. I loved working with the different stores within the mall and creating promotional materials for them. I also loved the people in my office. They made going to work everyday a blast.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

Aside from looking good on a resume, this internship opened up a whole new world of contacts for me. I was able to network and meet new people. This internship also made me realize that shopping center marketing is a career that I definitely want to be involved in after I graduate.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

Don't be afraid to ask questions! Your supervisor will respect you for asking and appreciate the fact that you want to learn.

Dress for success! Believe it or not, dressing nicely helps you land a job within the workplace. People within the office will start to notice you more and will remember you when a new job opens up.

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Brandalyn Shropshire
Internship site: UTC Admissions office

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

I am doing my internship at the admission office. The majority of the internship I have put together a tour video for recruiting. Also, I worked with the orientation office to put together a skit for new students to enjoy. I also had the opportunity to edit a few files.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

I enjoyed working with the orientation leader the most. They are full of energy and a very funny. Being creative with them was very easy.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

I currently work here as a secretary. In the future I would like to pursue a job that allowed me to do some of the projects I participated in full time.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

If you are presented with a project that you are not comfortable with use that apprehension to your advantage. It is the times that you are "fearful" that force you out of your comfort zone and help you expand your skills.

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Jani Smith
Internship site: WREG News Channel 3, Memphis

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

During my internship at WREG, I shadowed reporters and videographers on their daily assignments. I interviewed people on the street, wrote scripts from those sound bites, and edited the raw footage taped in order to complete packages.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

I liked that there was never really a down moment. I was always busy especially on the days when we covered several stories. I especially liked being in the field interacting with the community.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

My internship helped me to learn and master all aspects of reporting. Although, Channel 3 was not hiring at the time my internship ended, I still feel that the experience was a plus. I also made several reference contacts within the station.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

My advice to future interns would be to make the most out of the experience, which means to learn as much as you can about everything. It's imperative to do so, because the UTC Department of Communication does not offer concentrations in which specific areas of study within the major can be focused on. I would also advise future

interns to seek internships from the beginning of their college career up until the end for the variety and the experience.

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Stephanie Sullivan
Internship site: Southside Marketing Group

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

My role consisted of researching, designing and implementing marketing campaigns. This process meant meeting with media contacts, laying out a timeline for media coverage, writing press releases, event planning (Grand Openings, for example) and usually direct mail campaigns. Alongside my marketing role, I also wrote copy for numerous brochures and websites- meaning I had to do a lot of research before I began.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

I enjoyed the variety of work that I was able to gain experience in at Southside. I wasn't aware of many of the businesses in the Chattanooga area until I came onboard and started to socialize with their decision makers at Chamber events and maintain contact with them producing leads and opportunities. I found the workplace itself to be very comfortable and the people that mentored me to be very hands-on in my pursuit of a professional learning experience.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

My internship got my foot in the door to a career. As soon as the summer ended I was hired on full-time as Marketing Coordinator for Southside Marketing Group- a responsibility that I am proud to say only came after I proved myself as a willing undergrad.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

I searched out internships way before the time came when I would need one. I wanted to get a good idea of what was out there and so I reached out to area employers and sent my resume to many just to see where I stood among my fellow collegiate competitors. I feel like my having initiated the internship search early on prepared me for the interview experience and gave me a good idea of the prospective work in this area.

My advice to Communication majors is to apply to lots of places and not let money be a determinant in your selection. It pays off to work a few hours a week while making a good impression if you wind up being offered a full-time position. Internships are learning experiences-remember to seek out ways to learn throughout your time there...don't hesitate to ask someone if you can shadow them for a few days and learn what they do. Showing that type of initiative impresses employers as well as creates a broad skill set for you in the long run.

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Jennifer Meade Thaggard
Internship site: Chattanooga Area Food Bank

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

I interned at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank. I chose this because I love and wanted to support a non-profit organization. While there, I did miscellaneous office work (entered in fundraising profits, helped pack boxes, did mass mailings of all sort, etc.) and did a lot of creative projects for some of their many events. It was so much fun!

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

My favorite part, like most things I do, was meeting people. Everyone there was really nice and welcoming. Other than that, I really, really enjoyed the creative projects I was able to work on.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

I was offered to stay and work at the CAFB, though I'm not sure if they were implying that I'd be paid or not...? Regardless, I am going to stay and volunteer until I leave for Oregon at the end of September. I'm attending culinary school so I wasn't looking for a career after I was finished.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

To keep an open mind and if it seems boring at times to stay with it because, by the end, it's totally worth it. Also, try and find one in something you're really interested in because it's totally possible to get a job offer from your experience.

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Jacob Vannucci
Internship site: True North Custom Publishing

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

I was an editorial intern, which meant that I participated in every part of the editorial process at True North, which is a custom publishing firm specializing in hospital magazines. I gathered research, conducted interviews, and wrote stories all while under the careful eye of an intern supervisor.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

I enjoyed the creative challenge of writing interesting copy about subjects that aren't necessarily interesting. I also enjoyed the atmosphere of the downtown office and all the creative and smart people who work there.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

I feel confident that upon graduating True North would be inclined to hire me as a copywriter. I also made plenty of contacts and references with people who have extensive expertise in different areas of media production who I know can help me out in the future.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

Don't be afraid to pick something that is outside of the field you see yourself going into. Many times, the experience of something new can be an eye-opener into something you didn't know you enjoyed doing. It also expands your skill set.

Internship Advice from COMM 485 Interns

NAME: Rachel Walker
Internship Summer 2008
site: Chattanooga Area Conventions And Visitors Bureau

In three or four sentences, describe what you did during your internship.

Basically, my job was to complete projects for different people throughout the office. For instance, the majority of my time was spent creating an online survey for clients of Shelda Rees, Director of Tourism. Other projects such as writing of two press releases, proofing collateral, compiling data in excel, observing mass marketing of tourism.

What did you enjoy the most about your internship?

My favorite assignments in college involved researching and compiling data. I thoroughly enjoyed editing and integrating the Chattanooga survey into an online survey.

Please describe how your internship helped you in getting your career started. Were you hired by your internship supervisor? Or did you make a contact to find employment through your internship?

Confidence. In the beginning, I was shy. It is very intimidating working with people that are doubled your age and experience. However, in doing this I learned that the "real world" is really not that bad. I was not hired by my internship supervisor. I am moving back home for a few months to save money in order to move to New York City.

What advice would you give Communication majors about their internships?

Interview with as many people as possible. Try to not let anything else get into the way of the best impression possible. If you have to work in order to pay bills, like most of us do, try to schedule a time that is convenient for you and your internship supervisor so there is not lack of communication in any part of your learning experience. Ask questions, even if you think they are irrelevant.