Internships are an excellent way to gain “real world” experience in your chosen career or major. Other experiential learning opportunities include co-ops, independent studies, practicum, apprenticeships, service learning, field experience, and directed research and externship. All of these enhance academic experiences by facilitating exposure to a career field and enabling the student to gain direct experience in a professional setting. Interns may also discover whether or not a desired career path is an appropriate fit.

Internships can be used to:

- Aid in academic and career decision-making
- Allow opportunities to use knowledge gained in the classroom
- Improve post-graduate job prospects by obtaining relevant experience
- Help develop a network of professional contacts
- Earn income during the educational process
- Develop job search skills
- Provide benefit to the host organization and be used as a prospecting tool for recruitment

Things to Consider:

Do you want to receive academic credit for your internship? – If you are interested in learning more about how to receive advanced elective business credit for your internship, please contact Kelvie Crabb for accounting. For other majors, you may qualify for Business 300. See business.ku.edu/internships for more information.

Are you willing to accept an unpaid internship? Some unpaid internships can provide substantial experience, expand your contacts, and even potentially lead to full-time opportunities later. If you have the flexibility to consider an unpaid internship, many other benefits still exist.

Do you have geographical preferences? – Internship opportunities are available through formal programs all over the country and even abroad. National, regional, and local organizations often interview through on-campus recruiting for internship roles. Please register with the Business Career Services Center to take advantage of on-campus internship recruiting.

Are you looking for a summer internship or one during the school year? – While many internships are offered during the summer, don’t overlook the possibility of internships offered during the school year. With the exception of tax internships, most internships during the school year are part-time.

How much time do you wish to devote to your internship? – Internships can range from only a few hours a week to over 40 and can span from a summer to even a year or beyond.

How to find an internship:

On-Campus Recruiting – Many organizations recruit in the Business Careers Services Center to find interns. Visit our office and talk with our staff to learn how registering with KU Career Connections/Symplicity, our on-line database for jobs and internships.

Networking – Talk to your contacts about your desire to obtain an internship and the type of role you are seeking. Your contacts might be aware of internship opportunities to refer you to.
Career Fair – Many employers present at the Career Fair have internship opportunities for students at the University of Kansas. Please check KU Career Connections/Symplicity and the career fair booklet to identify which companies are seeking interns and be sure to stop by their booth.

BCSC Resource Library – Some titles available in our resource library include *The Internship Bible* and *The Back Door Guide to Short Term Job Adventures*. These resources can be checked out by students and can assist you in the identification of internship opportunities, as well as tips on how to apply to internships.

Online Resources – Some useful online links for internships are included on the BCSC website in the “Student” section under “Resources” and “Find a Job.”

**AIESEC** - AIESEC is the world's premiere student-run international organization dedicated to increasing cultural understanding and cooperation through running an international paid-internship program. AIESEC helps U.S. companies reach out to young business and I.T. professionals in over 700 universities worldwide. AIESEC also helps U.S. students find paid internships abroad in any of their more than 80 member countries. AIESEC is currently based in 38 locations in the United States, including an organization at the University of Kansas.

Create Your Own – If you are not finding an internship listing in the area that you desire, contact a targeted organization directly to see if they would entertain hiring an intern. Be sure to let them know what skills you can bring to the table. Help the organization understand that hiring you as an intern could be a win-win situation for both parties.

**Start Preparing Now:**

Revise Your Resume – Make an appointment with the Business Careers Services Center to have your resume reviewed so that you can present your best image to recruiters.

Register with BCSC & Update Your Profile on KU Career Connections/Symplicity – This is free of charge for all admitted business students.

Networking – Start Now! Tell everyone in your networking web that you are looking for an internship.

Prepare a 30-Second Introduction – Prepare an introduction for the career fair. This should include: your name, your major, your career interests, a brief overview of your applicable skills.

Mark Your Calendar – Put the career fair date on your calendar now. See the BCSC for the current date.

Get Involved – Join campus or community organizations and try to obtain leadership roles.

Obtain Work Experience – Ensure that you have work experience by getting a part-time job while in school and/or over the winter break.

Pull Together Your Interviewing Wardrobe – Do you have a suit for your interviews? If not, you might want to add it to your holiday wish-list.

Informational Interviewing & Research - Schedule appointments over the winter break with industry professionals to talk about their careers. Use Vault, WetFeet, and other BCSC resources to learn more about industries and companies.