

BEYOND INTERNSHIPS

DESIGN A SUMMER PLAN

CONSULTING



1

IDENTIFY INDUSTRY FOCUSED SKILLS

- Team-Based Problem-Solving
- Analytical Mindset
- Making an Impact
- Quickly Synthesizing Data to Make Recommendations
- Business Savvy/Entrepreneurial
- Hard Skills : Excel/PPT

2

COMBINE MULTIPLE EXPERIENCES

- Informational Interviews
- Job Shadow
- Coursework
- Volunteer/Service
- Micro-Internship
- Part-time / Temp Work
- Professional Conferences
- Workshops/Trainings/Competitions
- Create Your Own Internship
- Individual Project: Create Something
- Start a Business
- Research

3

DEMONSTRATE AND ARTICULATE

- Think creatively about how you can develop/demonstrate skills. Be proactive and intentional in all of your experiences.
- Find and cultivate mentors.
- Schedule sessions with your Vandy Career Coach to develop your plan and discuss how to "tell the story" of your summer.

SAMPLE PLAN

INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWS

- **Goal:** Explore the consulting industry, gain advice on specific skills to develop and build relationships with professionals.
- **Action:** Set up brief phone conversations with 10 consultants at different firms. Enrolled in Student's Guide to LinkedIn (provided free by the Career Center).
- **Result/Skills:** Gained clarity about consulting and the interview process. More confident going into fall recruitment. Found a consultant willing to be a mentor.

CREATED AN INTERNSHIP

- **Goal:** Pitch a project to an organization or cause to get real-world business experience.
- **Action:** Connected with a large local non-profit and pitched idea of working on a business problem. The non-profit accepted the proposal to research potential new revenue streams beyond donations. Dedicated 80 hours over the summer researching, analyzing, and recommending a business strategy. Presented findings via PPT to the leadership team.
- **Result/Skills:** Organization is implementing one of the ideas. Developed business analysis skills and ability to use data to tell a story.

TARGETED COURSEWORK

- **Goal:** Enroll in online coursework focused on consulting skills.
- **Action:** Completed *Data Analytics* (Coursera) and *Excel for Consultants* (Management Consulted Vandy subscription).
- **Result/Skills:** Intrigued by Data Analytics as a possible career choice. Added the Coursera course to LinkedIn Profile. Acquired intermediate Excel skills.

MICRO-INTERNSHIP

- **Goal:** Explore Micro-Internships as a path to project-based experience.
- **Action:** Created profile at ParkerDewey. Applied for and accepted a virtual Market Research project (30 hr) for a Fortune 500 company.
- **Result/Skills:** Made \$\$! Acquired business research skills and demonstrated the ability to meet deadlines with a deliverable.

PART-TIME JOB

- **Goal:** Work part-time as an administrative assistant for a local real estate development firm to earn \$. Propose a project to gain business skills.
- **Action:** Pitched working on an in-depth real estate trends report. Set SMART goals and created a "deadline".
- **Result/Skills:** Delivered a comprehensive trend overview with PPT to the leadership team. Enhanced ability to quickly synthesize business research data and deliver under a deadline.