**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.

---

**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY | Career Center**