

# BEYOND INTERNSHIPS

DESIGN A SUMMER PLAN

## ENTERTAINMENT

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### IDENTIFY INDUSTRY FOCUSED SKILLS

- Flexibility
- Focus/Drive
- Maturity
- Ability to Receive Creative Criticism
- Read, Write, and Watch (Everything)
- Thoughtful Perspective

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### 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

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### 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:** Gain an insider perspective on making it in Hollywood and cultivate connections.
- **Action:** Joined Vandy in Hollywood Facebook group and identified alumni with interesting experiences in entertainment. Crafted personalized emails to stand out.
- **Result/Skills:** Had conversations with 13 professionals and learned what skills were valuable in scriptwriting and that Hollywood is a "who you know" town.

## TARGETED COURSEWORK

- **Goal:** Hone script writing skills.
- **Action:** Enrolled in a 30-hour online [Coursera](#) course *Script Writing: Create a Pilot Episode for a TV Series* (UCLA). As part of the class, wrote a complete pilot episode for a unique TV drama series.
- **Result/Skills:** Learned to break down the creative process into smaller components and create a pitch-ready script in just a few weeks. Gained confidence in screenwriting and pitching skills.

## INDIVIDUAL PROJECT: CREATE SOMETHING

- **Goal:** Self produce a screen play and build skills related to video production.
- **Action:** Wrote a screen play and uploaded to [BlackList](#) for feedback. Created a personal portfolio on [WIX](#) and added it to LinkedIn. Wrote and directed a video series using a phone and iMovie. Shared work with alumni and faculty to get feedback.
- **Result/Skills:** Developed confidence getting critique of creative work. Created professional website (WIX) to share work with the public.

## RESEARCH

- **Goal:** Deep dive into what makes a script great (or not) and being able to articulate it.
- **Action:** Read the entire [Black List](#) for the past ten years – the good, bad, classic, and experimental.
- **Result/Skills:** Apart from practicing writing, reading hundreds of scripts was a tremendous education on the entertainment industry (and much cheaper than grad school).