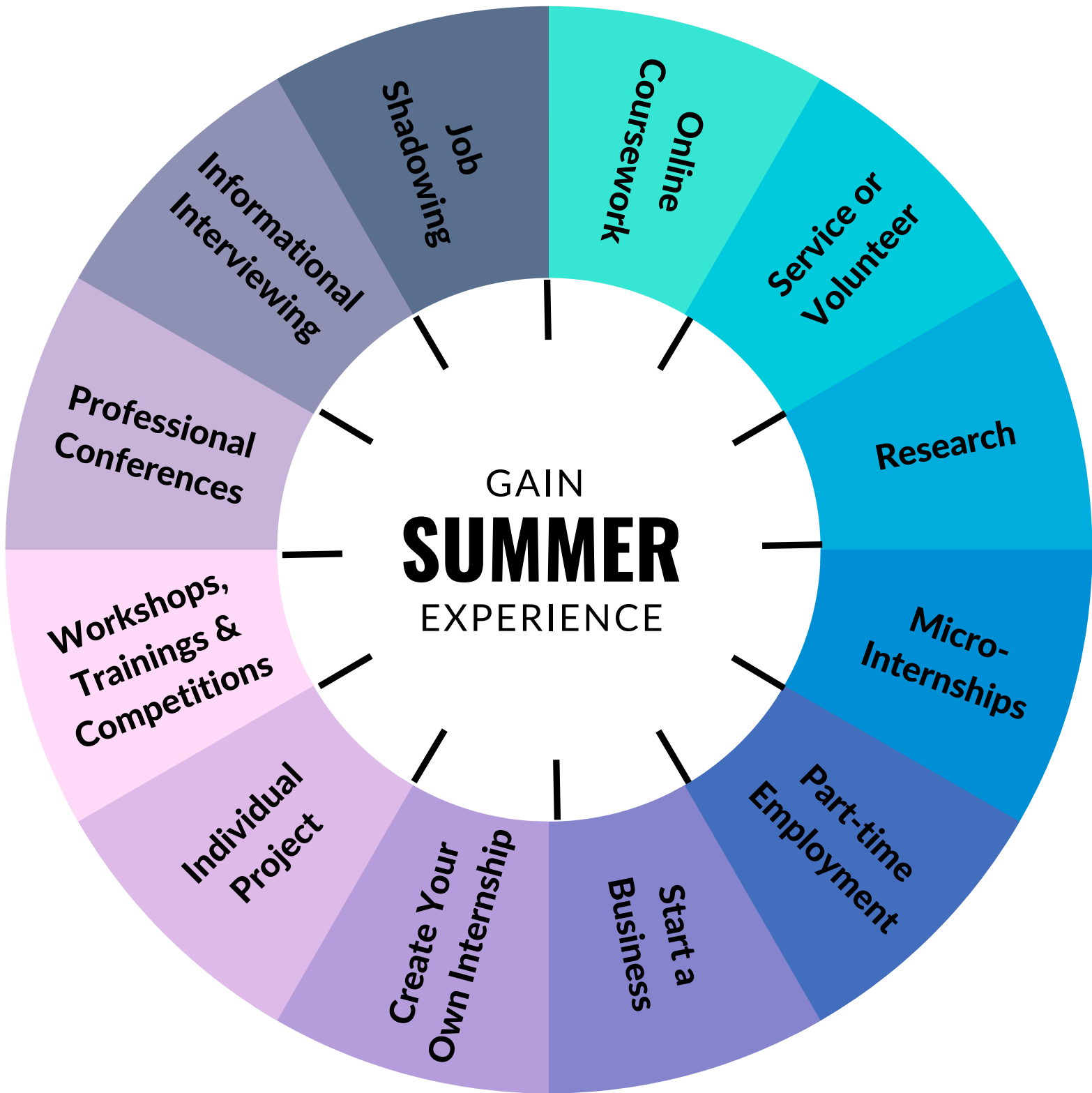


LOOKING BEYOND INTERNSHIPS

Take a look at the possibility wheel, and then check out the following pages that have more information about each experience!



POSSIBILITIES TO EXPLORE



VANDERBILT
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DEFINITION

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Informational Interviewing

An informational interview is simply talking with professionals who are currently in occupations or industries you are considering in order to gain information and insights. This information can be used in choosing a major, exploring career options, or preparing for a job/internship search.

- [How to do an informational interview](#)

Job Shadowing

Observing someone doing a job you are interested in can be a tremendous “reality check” about the industry or company. Observing or “shadowing” can be an hour or multi-day.

- [How to set up a job shadow](#)

Online Coursework

Non-credit online coursework does not replace academic coursework, but can be a great option for enhancing your skills, giving you a taste of a new topic or filling in knowledge gaps. These courses or certifications are often free. The courses are done on your timeline, so they can be a flexible way to build skills.

- [Coursera](#)
- [Edx](#)
- [Udemy](#)
- [Alison](#)

Service/ Volunteer

Giving your time to an organization or a cause can be a great way to learn more about an area of interest, build your network, demonstrate your initiative, and gain experience. Volunteerism and service work can be formal or informal, short or long-term.

- [Idealist.org](#)
- [Volunteermatch.org](#)
- [Vanderbilt OACS](#)

Research

Undergraduate research opportunities allow you to pursue answers to interesting questions, while exploring career areas, develop valuable skills and grow faculty connections.

- [Vanderbilt undergraduate research](#)

Micro- Internships

Micro-internships are paid short-term assignments that usually range from 5 - 40 hours of work. Most can be done remotely. Great experience builder for college students!

- [Why micro-internships will be the next big thing](#)
- [Parkerdewey.com](#)



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Part-time Employment

When employer's review an applicant's profile, they look beyond a student's major coursework. Part-time jobs provide an opportunity to develop new skills and competencies. Offer to help on a project for a colleague or directly ask your superiors for opportunities.

- [Hire a Dore](#)

Start a Business

Starting your own business can be a powerful experience and expose you to a new industry and network of people. You could gain real world skills, demonstrate the entrepreneurial spirit and self-starter mindset valued by many employers. From a cooking class offered in your kitchen to developing an app, you can do it!

- [Tips for starting a business while in college](#)

Create Your Own Internship

Finding and securing a structured internship can be challenging. Perhaps you are a student interested in a niche industry. Creating your own internship is a viable path to gaining skills and experience. With a little creativity and persistence, you could craft an internship that meets your needs!

- [How a student created her own internship](#)
- [How to create your own internship](#)
- [Three ways to create an internship](#)

Individual Project: Create Something

Show me what you built! Employers are putting more emphasis on what you do outside of coursework as they evaluate applicants. Coursework is required and employers want to know how you use your time outside of class.

- [Professional side projects](#)

Workshops, Trainings, & Competitions

Participating in workshops and trainings are terrific ways to hear from experts in career fields and to acquire skills and knowledge needed. Competitions such as consulting case competitions, VINES 48 Hour Launch, and VandyHacks Hackathon allow you to work together on teams to complete a challenge that solves a real-world problem.

- [Vandy hacks](#)
- [Vines](#)

Professional Associations & Conferences

Professional Associations put on conferences that allow you to meet people with similar career interests and connect with industry professionals. You can also discover industry trends and opportunities. Professional associations often have a reduced fee for students.

- [Explore and join a professional association](#)

