

Rev Up Your Resume

Internships provide an ideal way to gain valuable on-the-job experience

By Tommy Mitchell

Brad Porter photos



If you're looking for an up-close-and-personal view as to how the working world operates, internships can offer an invaluable experience, providing the opportunity to get a feel of what it's like to actually work in the field, outside of a classroom setting.

Being an intern is no longer about just getting coffee and shadowing a professional. "I have seen a very definitive move from the intern watching and observing to the interns doing and being a very direct part of the operation during their internship," notes David Thompson, who has been the radio/television internship coordinator at Northern Kentucky University for 23 years.

Erin Taber, a senior at Asbury College, recently completed an internship in the news department of WLEX, the Lexington affiliate for NBC. Gaining actual experience, working with broadcasting professionals and having the chance to do some editing, reporting, and production work all helped Taber grasp what the requirements of a career in television news was all about.

"It taught me a lot about myself and my aspirations to be involved in the television news business," says Taber.

In addition to providing valuable experience, "nothing builds a first-job resume like an internship," adds Thompson. "Students build a packet of real examples and in most cases a nice list of references."

Many fields – such as television, radio, print and other media-related businesses – are really ones that need to be learned "hands-on."

"I have had students who had a fairly minimal grade point average (GPA) status who excelled at the hands-on part of the experience," says Thompson. "I have also had stellar GPAs who just can't 'do' much of anything and don't work well in the internship setting."

And, he points out, it is never too early to look into securing an internship. The more internships you complete, the more experience you gain – and the more impressive your resume. 📺

Top right and left: Training at her college's on-site production studio and an internship with a local television station have given Asbury senior Erin Taber first-hand experience in the world of broadcasting.