



**Is doing an Internship a Waste of Time *Or*
one of the best investments of time a College student can make?
It comes down to... how motivated are you to have the right job
as soon as you graduate?**

-- *by* -- Stephanie McKee, McCloskey Partners, Intern;

Stephanie@mccloskeypartners.com

You read articles on why internships and co-ops are important to complete during college. That same article will tell you that these opportunities will give you “real-world experience” while you’re in school. But aren’t there other benefits to gaining internship or co-op experience?

Here are 5 reasons why gaining experience, while still in school, is beneficial from a college student’s perspective:

1. Internships and course material go hand-in-hand.

I have had great success in my Human Resources courses. It’s not that I read the material over and over until I gain an understanding. The reason I’ve been successful is because I have completed internships during my schooling. When learning certain topics related to my field, I have been able to see it in action outside of a textbook. The best example is employment law. Yes, you learn the basis of law in class, but what’s an example of each? My internship experience has allowed me to understand the laws enacted and how each respectively plays out in business. Because of this, I know that what I’m learning in school is transferable to the real world. And it makes more sense to me when I read it in a textbook, because I am dealing with it during my internship.

2. Possible full-time job opportunities.

Of course, this is the most obvious. Depending on the company you intern or co-op with, you could be offered a full time job when you graduate. The reason companies offer full-time positions to employees that interned with them is the Company is familiar with the employee already and making the offer before graduation saves everyone time and stress.

3. Networking, Networking, Networking.

Maybe you didn’t intern or co-op with one of these larger companies so a full-time offer isn’t guaranteed or even in question. **So you ask yourself, why is this intern or co-op even beneficial?** The reason it’s beneficial is because you can network! You can network anywhere you work. Networking is important to build strong professional relationships as well as having people who may refer you for full-time positions, even when they aren’t able to offer you one with their company.

When you add someone to your network (e.g. LinkedIn), you also gain access to their network and so on. Finding a full-time offer might not be so challenging now!

4. **Gaining soft skills.**

How hard can it be to type an email? Well, you would be surprised. Having gained experience in an office setting, I've learned typing an email doesn't come natural. That being said, I've gained soft skills from my experiences that are more valuable than I thought. These are the traits you can't just learn in school; you learn from doing. I know how to professionally communicate via email and telephone along with simple tasks, such as how to act during a meeting or how to be the facilitator of a meeting. All of these skills are going to be applicable in any job opportunity you pursue.

5. **Becoming more marketable.** Finally, gaining experience during school is important to make yourself more marketable. Sometimes, entry-level positions require at least one (1) year of experience. Having an internship gives you an advantage above another classmate who have no internship experience under their belt because you are able to talk about your on-the-job experience during the interview process. A classmate might only be able to discuss school related projects, but you can talk about both your internship AND school related projects!

Overall, gaining internship or co-op experience shouldn't be considered "a necessary evil" of graduating college. This experience is transferable to the real-world and is taken quite seriously. Companies challenge their interns to be the new and creative thinkers to present solutions. Take advantage of an internship or co-op because this means the company values you – you are an investment to them – and the company will treat you as such. Learning and development opportunities, like internships or co-ops, are going to be few and far between once you graduate; so why not take advantage of gaining this experience while still in school?

Not sure if interning is right for you? OR your company is thinking of adding an internship and not sure how to structure the position, contact McCloskey Partners today and we can discuss your possible internship needs. Contact Stephanie McKee directly at 215-716-3035 x 709 or Stephanie@mccloskeypartners.com

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