

Career Fairs

Career Fairs provide individuals who are seeking jobs, internships or to network; the opportunity to connect with employers. The University of Iowa offers numerous career fairs through the course of the academic year. A variety of employers are invited to attend our fairs. We encourage all students to attend these fairs in order to begin their career search. Tips for making a career fair successful are below:

HOW TO MAKE A FAIR WORK FOR YOU!

General Information

- Dress professionally or business casual. Professional dress includes a suit or dress. Business casual can include dress slacks, dress shirt, or khakis.
- Check in at the information table. Wear a name tag that also indicates major or degree. Employers like to know with whom they are speaking.
- Plan to visit several times throughout the day. Hundreds of students attend and it may be necessary to wait in line. Plan for your own breaks.
- Don't expect to receive private time with an employer. This is an information fair and a lot of people are trying to be heard. Be patient and do your best to listen carefully when an employer is talking to you.
- If you are not looking for a job, gathering information about potential employers is also beneficial. If so, spend some time speaking informally with employers and gathering pamphlets and business cards.

Identifying and Preparing to Speak With Employers

- Attend a Career Fair preparation seminar to learn more about speaking with employers.
- Read the list of employers participating in the fair. Circle the companies you are interested in speaking with. You will be more productive if you identify in advance the employers you want to meet with.
- Research the organizations that interest you. Review their web sites or research employer information in the Pearson library. This will help you be more informed of their company or organization when you speak with them.
- Write down questions to ask representatives from your targeted companies or organizations.

Speaking With Employers

- Visit your targeted companies/organizations first. You will tire easily if you talk to too many. Gather business cards when you can.
- Pick up materials from each employer you visit, which will help you make a decision about pursuing employment with this employer.
- Tell the company/organization representative about yourself.
- Ask the representative questions.
- Leave your resume.
- Walk around and speak informally with company/organization representatives you may be interested in learning more about.

When the Fair is Over

- Write thank you notes to representatives you spoke with. This is especially important for employers who are interested in you or whom you are interested in.
- Continue to research potential employers.
- Attend career seminars offered by the Pomerantz Career Center, to learn more about the job search process.

***See the Pomerantz Career Center web site (www.careers.uiowa.edu) for a list of Career Fair dates.**