



# Internship Questions and Answers

1. Q: What is an internship?  
A: *An internship is a "...form of experiential education that integrates knowledge and theory learned in the classroom with practical application and skill development in a professional setting." Messiah College*
2. Q: Why are internships important?  
A. *The 2015 National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Internship & Co-op Survey Report indicated that the intern conversion rate was 51.7%. The report's executive summary also stated that "very few employers required their interns and co-ops to arrange to receive academic credit for program participation." 95% of all entry-level jobs for new grads give preference to candidates with career-related work experience. Employers view internships as a way to see how a student will perform post-graduation without making a long term commitment. They are also using internships to reach talent earlier and build partnerships with higher education institutions. Students develop skills that employers need during their internship experience. Students who do not participate in internships are clearly at a disadvantage.*
3. Q: Can I get academic credit for an internship?  
A. *You will need to check with your academic advisor or your course catalog to see if credit is an option and to determine what is required.*
4. Q: What if I don't need the academic credit or my program doesn't offer credit for internships?  
A. *To be a more competitive applicant and build your resume, you can do a zero-credit internship. See Career Services for Zero-Credit Forms and Expectations.*
5. Q: Can I get paid if I am getting academic credit?  
A. *ABSOLUTELY! Pay and college credit are not part of the definition of an internship. These are benefits added by the employer or university.*
6. Q: I can't quit my current job. How do I get career-related work experience?  
A. *Career Services can make recommendations to enhance your current position or make a career-related change.*
7. Q: When can I do an internship?  
A. *There are requirements set by the academic program if you are doing an internship for credit. For zero-credit internships, you must have a minimum 30 college credits, either from Lewis University or another college.*
8. Q: Can I do more than one internship?  
A. *ABSOLUTELY!*
9. Q: Can I include the internship as experience on my resume if I didn't get paid?  
A. *Yes, pay is not a requirement for experience. The quality of the experience will set you apart from other candidates.*
10. Q: What happens if I don't have an internship on my resume?  
A. *Career-related experiential learning can occur in other ways such as research projects, service learning, volunteering and study abroad programs. You can also do an internship after you graduate to help with your job search.*
11. Q: How do I find an internship?  
A. *GO to all of the career events to get comfortable meeting employers. Don't miss the How Flyers Get Internships & Experience Workshop. Build your Flyers Get Hired! profile at [mylewis.lewisu.edu](http://mylewis.lewisu.edu). This is where the internships and jobs are posted.  
Visit your Career Services office for more resources!*

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