



Recruit-A-Duke

JMU Career & Academic Planning

Newsletter

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HOT Summer Career Tips

The Weather Is Heating Up—Are Your Career Plans?

You may feel that during the rest of the year you simply don't have time to even think about your future career, let alone *do* something about it. Although you may be equally busy in the summer, this is a great time to step back and think about your short-term and long-term career plans. Start by making a list of some reasonable summer goals. What are some of the key factors that you want to have settled by the end of the summer? Commit your ideas to writing and start prioritizing your needs. At the end of the summer, review and assess your new skills, interests and establish more goals for the year.

Summer Top 10 List

1. **Explore Your Career Options**- Investigate experience, education, & salaries.
2. **Strengthen Your Resume** – Review, update, then review again!
3. **Volunteer Into A Career** – Learn as much as you can from volunteering in the field.
4. **Conduct Informational Interviews and Network** - Shadow, question, & listen!
5. **Buy An Interview Suit** - Proper interview attire is critical, buy it in advance.
6. **Develop Transferable Skills** - Sophisticating your “soft skills” gives you an edge.
7. **Obtain Strong References** - Be relationship-oriented, ask for endorsements!
8. **Read Three Career Development Books** - June, July, & August, one each month.
9. **Take A Summer Course & Get Ahead!** - It may lead to a networking opportunity.
10. **Get Advice** - Create a “Dream Team” of advisors/friends and update them often.





Alumni Question & Answer

WHO: Christina Chiaro, Human Resources Professional

WHERE: Juicy Couture, New York, NY



Q: How long have you been working at Juicy Couture and what was your career path from JMU?

A: I have been working for Juicy Couture for two years. Juicy is my second full-time position after graduating JMU in December 2006 (after 3.5 years). My first role was at a media investment company in NYC. I was hired as an HR Associate following graduation and stayed in that role for 1.5 years before exploring new opportunities with Juicy Couture and in the fashion industry. I discovered my first job through a friend and fellow student at JMU. I found that networking with those who already graduated from JMU and were in NYC already was the most effective way to make lasting connections in the northeast. This particular contact had the same Major and Concentration (SCOM – PR) as myself and was working for a company I could see myself working at as well. For my second position, I was contacted by a recruiting agency in NYC that advised me of the new opportunity, at that time I was ready for a challenge and for the next steps in my career so it worked nicely. The recruiter viewed my resume posted online.

Q: Did you secure your first position in New York City before you moved?

A: I did not know about the role before I graduated, but immediately following. I interviewed once I returned home to the northeast that January of 2007.

Q: What advice would you give JMU students who want to live in New York, but do not have jobs in advance?

A: I would advise them to network! Build a list of everyone you know that has connections or actually works in an industry you are pursuing. Email and call them, then follow up. Additionally, online postings many seem generic, but many companies still review those who apply online. You would be surprised how many call backs you will get if you apply to enough that interest you. I would inquire about recruiting agencies in the NYC area that focus on jobs you are interested in, connect with them to see what they have available, as they can be great liaisons between you and the NYC job market. They also look for candidates online, so post your resume publicly, if you desire. Lastly, be flexible in your travel to and from the JMU area. It was very difficult to make the travel for interviews as trips could take up to 8 hours one-way. Try to coordinate a time to travel (maybe one weekend per month) during the semester you are doing your job search. This will allow for you to make appropriate time for interviews. It's really important to meet employers in person and witness the corporate culture in the office before accepting.

Q: Do you feel your SCOM major prepared you well to start off your career?

A: It definitely prepared me well! It was a fantastic program filled with tons of qualitative courses which helped me to refine my writing and presentation skills. Many of the long-term and group-projects assigned also helped me become an organized and well-planned adult. The professors always offered constructive feedback and overall SCOM was a happy place to be within the JMU community.

Q: How competitive do you feel JMU Grads are in your industry or in the New York area in general?

A: Many employers in the northeast and NYC area still do not know much about JMU or at least are not educated enough about the school to give it the credit it deserves. JMU often attracts many local students, but I think that those in NY, NJ and CT would equally love and appreciate all the school has to offer, in turn giving JMU students more exposure to the northeast. I think JMU could rise well above its competitor schools!



Graduating In May?

Recruit-A-Duke & JMU Email Info.

Did you know that as a JMU alumnus, you have access to On-Campus Recruiting and Mock Interviews for up to 6 months after you graduate? Furthermore, you have lifetime access to Recruit-A-Duke job postings. Lastly, your @dukes.jmu.edu email account never expires, so feel free to show your Duke spirit beyond your time on campus!

Internship?

It's Not Too Late For An Internship

Employers are still reaching out to Recruiting Services to find students for their internships this summer. If you do not have an internship, it's not too late! Check out Recruit-A-Duke for summer internships, as well as other search engines listed on Career & Academic Planning's website, by following this link:

<http://bit.ly/c35fQJ>



Inspiration Through Information

Where should I even begin? Working as a Federal Service Student Ambassador has allowed me to reach out and inspire students to pursue federal careers and internships. I was able to learn a lot about my personal strengths and weaknesses while helping students explore and understand the wealth of opportunities available to them in the public service field. I have truly enjoyed providing students with the tools to enrich their professional lives through my seminars and individual advising sessions. The student body here at JMU is so talented and unique and knowing that I may have given them helpful information to use in their pursuit of becoming leaders in our country is truly an honor. This experience working as an Ambassador is unlike any other role I have taken on and I have sincerely enjoyed every part of it. As I am graduating in May, it is time to allow someone else to take on the role of sharing knowledge of the great federal opportunities that exist. I hope that can be another current JMU student! If you are interested in acting as a leader on the JMU campus to inspire students to pursue federal careers or internships, I would strongly encourage you to visit <http://apps.makingthedifference.org/studentambassadors/default.aspx> as the application period for the 2010-2011 cohort of Federal Service Student Ambassadors will soon open up. Thank you for allowing me to share valuable and hopefully interesting information with some of you this year and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

-Courtney Robinson

*09-10 Student Ambassador for The
Partnership for Public Service*



Many thanks to the following employers....

JMU Recruiting Services would like to recognize those employers who participated in either **Mock Interviews**, **Resume Reviews** or **Resume Roundup** during the 2009-2010 academic year. If you are a sophomore or a junior, and aren't familiar with these service or programs, we strongly encourage you to take advantage of them your junior and senior year! As you can see many great companies participate, and it's a unique opportunity to get feedback directly from them!



Congrats to the class of 2010! We wish you the best of luck in the future, and don't forget about using Recruit-A-Duke as an alum!
For those of you returning next year, we look forward to working with you!

