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Everyone Can Benefit from a Career Fair

Career Services hosts all-school internship and job fairs that are open to students in every major. Not sure if you want to participate in these fairs? Consider these reasons to attend:

Our fairs are attended by a diverse range of employers who might just find you to be the ideal match for their jobs or internships.

Despite the impression that career fairs are only for students with certain kinds of majors, our fairs may attract companies looking for art, foreign language, public health, anthropology and every other major NIU offers. It is true that specialized employers (hospitals, museums, etc.) are not as plentiful as certain other kinds of employers, but it's often worth it to take a chance and see who is going to be there (link: <http://www.niu.edu/careerservices/events/students.shtml>.)

Many employers who come to career fairs are seeking students with any major.

Employers evaluate candidates from a holistic perspective. They look at your major PLUS several other aspects of your background to determine whether you are a good fit for their positions. That includes part-time jobs you've held, student activities, your GPA and so much more.

Employers tend to favor candidates whom they meet in person.

Sure, you can apply for jobs online, but those online applications are sometimes reviewed by recruiters who came to one of our career fairs. Making a favorable impression at the fair will help your application stand out.

Attending an internship or job fair increases the size of your network.

A career fair is a chance for you to start to form relationships with recruiting professionals. You get to hand out your resume, have a meaningful conversation about your strengths and their position openings, collect business cards, and possibly connect later on LinkedIn. These interactive activities can lead to interviews in the short term or other opportunities down the line.

Practice makes perfect.

Even if you are not looking for an internship or job in the near future, it's a good idea to attend a career fair to get used to the career fair environment. Then, when you do need the fair, you have a sense of what to expect and will feel more prepared.

“I didn't know **that's what their jobs would be like.”**

Recruiters at our career fairs are eager to introduce you to internships and jobs offered by their company. Use that opportunity to ask questions and gain insight into positions you're not familiar with. Information from recruiters will help you make informed decisions about your future.

Still uncertain if it's right for you to attend a career fair? Attend a preparation event (link: <http://www.niu.edu/careerservices/events/students.shtml>.) or talk with a career counselor to help you decide! Call 815-753-1641 for more information.