



Labovitz School
OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH
Driven to Discover

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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AMSOIL



How did you choose where to intern and did you seek help?

As a Management Information Systems major, I was looking for an intern position on the more technical side of the IT field. I sought help from the LSBE internship director Angie Soderberg. We discussed the types of work available in my field and whether or not I wanted to stay in the Twin Ports or travel somewhere for my internship. She used that information to compile a list of suggested internships based on her contacts. It was very helpful, however I ended up finding this one from my own searching on the internet. It took a LOT of searching and was not a short process. Internship positions tend to be rarely advertised it seems, and even when they are it is only for a brief period of time. I ended up needing to do an internship much sooner than I had anticipated, and I was fortunate that Amsoil needed someone immediately.

What challenges did you face while interning and how did you overcome them?

Oddly, having downtime was one of the biggest challenges I faced. At certain times, there can be a bit of it. It was at these times that I worked on my own development. At the beginning of the internship I was able to engage in online video training for computer security whenever I had time. Ultimately it helped me determine that I want to pursue computer programming, which is where I started but left it to explore the rest of the field. When I have downtime I visit sites like codecademy where I can spend my time learning more about computer programming.

What was the most surprising yet rewarding experience you had?

What might have been the most surprising and ultimately rewarding experience was determining that there are certain jobs I was originally interested in pursuing and after finding out more about them in the real world, I realized I don't want to go into that field of work anymore. For example, I was interested in becoming a Database Administrator, but after seeing the everyday work and discussing the job with an Amsoil employee, I have decided that position is not a good fit for me. Conversely, there are jobs I thought I wouldn't be interested in, and now I am seriously considering going after those jobs instead!

What recommendations do you have for someone starting their internship journey?

Don't sit around during downtime. Spend that time bettering yourself and working on your own development in ways that will help you at the internship. Better yet, you can take initiative and ask other employees if there is anything they need help with. They will appreciate it, even if it is something small.

Also, most importantly, socialize with your coworkers! Ask them about what they do. They will love to talk about it. Ask if you can help with anything. Ask how their day is going when in passing. You don't have to talk a lot but interact with them a little at a time. I spent my morning and afternoon breaks talking with the Database Administrator and the Web Developer over coffee/tea. We are now connected on LinkedIn, and they are more than willing to write recommendations if I need them to.