

Unlike paid internships, unpaid internships are not worth completing because they frequently do not help with advancing career goals. Paid internships are becoming a staple of college education. With my paid internship at ancestry.com, I have made connections that could help me secure future employment and gained important industry skills that I would not have learned at school; all of this happened while receiving generous compensation for my services to the company. All three of my uncles that became software engineers were paid interns in college and the final internships that they completed all resulted in job offers. Unpaid internships are a different story though. Internships are supposed to help advance your career goals and unpaid internships frequently do not help in this endeavor. According to the research that I have done and the people that I have talked to, most unpaid internships are costly and do not increase your chances of finding a job because they are in fields that grow slowly, such as fashion or the magazine industry. According to a recent survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, those who completed an unpaid internship are just as likely to land a paid full time job as who didn't get a job; those who completed a paid internship were almost twice as likely to land a job than those who completed an unpaid internship.