Landing Your Internship

Leveraging Your Data Skills and Nailing Your Internship

bit.ly/acflippo-ucla-workshop

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Spring 2017

DO WHAT YOU

LOVE

WHAT YOU DO

Outline

- Understand your goals
- Technical skills
- Communication skills
- Work and results you can speak to
- The elevator pitch
- Interview skills
- What to say when you don't know
- Tap your network

Understand Your Goals

Ask yourself:

- Where can you work? In any city?

- What do want to work on?

- Who do you want to work for?

- How to get your foot in the door?

- Do you want to make money to pay for school?

Technical Skills

Where does the data you analyzed come from?

- What kind of databases? MySQL, Postgresql, Redshift, ...
  - Install a database on your computer, load data, connect to it, run analysis
- Do you know SQL?
  - w3schools.com/sql
  - udemy.com
  - codecademy.com/learn/learn-sql
- Do you have scripting skills to manipulate data?
  - Unix skills, bash or python scripts, cloud computing (AWS)

If you can't communicate, it's like winking at a girl in the dark

~Warren Buffett

Communication Skills

- You are as good as your communication skills
    - Written/Presentation: sway opinions
    - Verbal: talk simply and succinctly
- Create a group of friends to practice presenting
- Join Toastmasters (westsidetoastmasters.com)
- Practice writing … start a blog

Work and Results

I am a student. Where can I find results to showcase?

- Class projects and write a blog

- Attend data fests and hack-a-thons & meet people

- Start a github repo to showcase your code

- Contribute to open source projects (fix a few bugs)

- LinkedIn profile

Start to build your work history & show your passion

Work and Results (cont'd)

Bonus if you can give me your resume right now!

Convey Your Skills Concisely: https://youtu.be/xnQr3ohml9s

Effective Resume Components: https://youtu.be/AiFcaHRGdEA

Resume Structure: https://youtu.be/POM0MqLTj98

Describe Your Work Experiences: https://youtu.be/B1LED4txinI

Resume Reflection: https://youtu.be/8Cj_tCp8mls

Resume Review: Have a friend do a 2-minute resume review

YOUR
FUTURE →

Elevator Pitch

In less than 3 minutes ...

In less than 3 sentences ...

Tell me something interesting about you!

The Interview

Interviewing Skills

With some work history (github, blog, LinkedIn) to speak of:

- Be humble but confident
- Be genuinely curious
- Be prepared
- Show your passion
- Practice and videotape yourself ... how do you come off?

Interviewing Skills (cont'd)

- Mock Interviews with an older friend who is working (e.g. your cousin, sibling, aunt/uncle)

- Be prepared to do some pair programming

- Get mentorship

- Prepare a thoughtful list to ask the interviewer if given the chance

  - How would you describe your management style?

  - How does the team collaborate?

  - Will this position be paired with a senior person?

What to Say if You Don't Know …

- Take Your Time (Don't be flustered)
  - Acknowledge the question (Hm, that's a good question …)

- Think Aloud
  - Outline high-level steps on how you might solve a problem

- Redirect
  - Something I don't have direct experience but here's a similar situation and how I approached it

- Have a Fail-Safe
  - It's something I haven't had a chance to look into but would love to learn more given the opportunity. I'll research that on Stackoverflow or similar sites

Tap Your Network

Wait … I have a network?

- Facebook Friends - join professional groups

- LinkedIn Colleagues - professional groups

- Older siblings or cousins

- Friends of Friends

- Attend Meetups and make more friends & learn a skill

Get Your Internship / Job

- Plan Ahead - be aware of deadlines

- Career Centers

- Look at company's job sites
  - careers.google.com/students/
  - careers.microsoft.com/students/internships

- Drop a friendly note in your network

- Attend conferences and hand out your business card
  - Have a fun but professional business card to remember you by

Landing the job ...

- It's a numbers game!

- Apply to 10 positions, might get 3 phone interviews

- Out of 3 phone interviews, might get 1 in-person interview

- Don't be too worry if you don't get an offer for the first 10 applications!

- Persevere! Have Grit!

- Don't email the interviewer to ask "Why didn't I get it?"

No Internship?

What do I do if I didn't get an internship this year?

- Design your own personalized internship

- Use Open Data to find something insightful

- Publish yourself! Blog or other sites (wequantla.com)

- Volunteer! You can still gain valuable data analysis experience

Thank you