*Interviewee comments in italics (paraphrased)*

Dave Davidson, Domestic Full-time BAPM student, Male

Expected graduation date: December 2017;

Internship in UTC Aerospace division (Summer 2017)

Background: Bachelor’s in Political Science, MBA - Finance, 6.5 years of work exp

Interviewer: Varnika Yertha

Career Mapping/Networking:

*I am curious about what the marketplace has for me, who is not from a Comp. Science background, after this degree which is my only technical experience. I want to put these technical skills to use though the project management side might be considered a better fit for me. So, I am actually not throwing anything out.*

Narrowed down specific roles? *My* *learning from interviewing is that job titles are vague and don’t give a clue about what the work is actually like.*

Did the workshops not brief you about that? *I attended a couple of them but I felt they were redundant, for me. They are good for basic stuff but I feel like a lot of students going to them expected hard answers. And they weren’t getting them. So, the workshops were from someone who’s been on the other side of the table (recruiter), but not as someone who’s been in one of the roles (analytics).*

*There is an incredibly nuanced perspective on that which is missing. It’s too simple to ask us to make a list of companies. For example, the placement report that is shared with the student. Break those overall stats down to give more context. What kind of jobs do these different companies hire for? What does 60% students hired under consulting mean? There are a lot of small, different companies which do the kind of work I am interested in, but how do I get that?*

What’s the alternative to these workshops? How would you want to learn these things?

*It’s end of the semester and 70% of students have jobs, this information is relayed back to Uconn. It would be great if they could share the key characteristics of the hire themselves, maybe a job description.*

Alumni meetups? *That would be actually really good, though I can see it’s hard. Networking on LinkedIn is actually not that fruitful, I haven’t tried the YLP groups etc.*

*At my MBA program, companies were constantly brought on campus to interview with students. This gave us a chance to make contacts and understand their work, if not interview. Right now, that process is at zero. With this degree, it needs to be happening. It should be the school’s no. 1 focus.*

TL;DR – 1. Workshops that provide more analytics, industry specific advice to students.

2.Provide context to the placement reports, list of companies that are tagged with the work they do (pure play analytics, types of consulting, product building, etc)

3. Alumni informational interviews about their jobs and process

Support from Uconn? *I went to the undergrad career fairs at Storrs, I did get 2-3 interviews from that and there were great companies but they weren’t focused on our program. I had mid terms the same day for 2 of them and the school was unwilling to bend the schedule, not interested in providing transport. With a program that’s 90% international, I think finding a car or paying the cab fare, these are big problems.*

Did you voice your feedback? *I was told to go the Graduate Senate which takes care of all grad students needs but I didn’t.*

Resume

*Think that’s on me, to develop my pitch or brand.*

Interviewing:

*They focused more on my projects, especially if they were about slightly quirky or innovative subjects. I would say, that flavor is important to make you stand out.*

What do you think you did well? *Did over 100 applications – I got a decent response rate (~50%) but I got this through hunting Indeed, LinkedIn and posting my resume. I didn’t get it through networking or the school.*

What could I have done better? *I could have networked more, reaching out to more alumni etc. I could have gone for certifications, to differentiate myself.*