Ways to build skills and experience

Internships aren’t the only way to gain practical experience and important skills!

**Volunteer.** Discover your interests, explore different career options, and meet important people that may be useful as contacts for future positions through volunteering. Visit the [Morgridge Center](#) in the Red Gym or search [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org) for volunteer opportunities.

**Get a summer or part-time job with a goal in mind.** Summer and part-time jobs build skills and can be relevant to your career path. The [UW Student Job Center](#) is an excellent resource of student job listings.

**Join a student club or organization.** Become a leader in a group on campus. You’ll meet people and gain transferable skills that future employers will be interested in. The [Center for Leadership and Involvement](#) (CfLI) is an excellent resource to connect you to student organizations.

**Create your own job shadow opportunities.** You don’t have to wait for a formal program – [create your own job shadow experience](#).

**Learn a new skill.** You may not get all the skills you need from class – especially new technology. [Lynda.com](http://lynda.com) is a great way to learn software, and it’s free for UW students!

**Work on your personal brand.** What happens when you google yourself? You may want to create or improve your LinkedIn, Twitter, website, or online portfolio of your work.

**Find a mentor** who can help with your career search along the way.

**Informational interviewing – as much as possible!** Read [this guide](#) or check out [this video](#) for an introduction. Listen to [this podcast](#) if you need inspiration or are nervous about getting started.