

DIGITAL DISPATCH

For this Month's Issue's Highlights

1. The struggles of student Interning
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Digital Media Opportunities

Now those of you that are lost when it comes to finding internships here at Texas State. As a digital media student, you need to be on the look out for new opportunities that take place on campus. For example, being a social media manager for some organizations. Former graduate student Gisele German, when recalling her experience working as a social media manager on campus she responded with "Honestly I hated the job at first but it open the doors to me trying new things." she further explained "It open the doors to experimenting with what i wanted to do for the rest of my career and what path to take next."

In this article, we want to put a spotlight on an obstacle for a student: the challenges of finding internships and the potential hardships the potentials issues faced during this process.

The Internship Quest: Feels like an Impossible Task

Internships are a crucial for students' careers, serving as a pathway between the academic world and the professional one. They offer valuable insights, hands-on experience, and the opportunity to build networking that can be instrumental in building up one's future career. Though, finding the interning opportunity may not be as simple as just saying the words. Students often find themselves facing a couple of obstacles along the way.

Potential Hardships Faced by Students in the Internship Hunt

1. Competition: The job market is fierce, and internships are no exception. Internships are in high demand with other students, so students find themselves in competition with their peers to be able to achieve the position they want.

2. Limited Availability: Intern ships in certain fields or industries can be limited, making it difficult for students to find opportunities that match students career goals. This scarcity can lead to frustration and self-doubt.

3. Financial Strain: Many internships are unpaid, students are most paid in experience rather than money, this makes it difficult for students to support themselves during their internship. Most often, students will have to attain other jobs to be able to afford and support themselves. Only to end up potentially over worked and stressed. This will snowball into other aspects of the students life including their work.

Seeking Solutions and Support

While the road to attaining an internship may seem dreadful. Here are some option students can reach out and use:

1. Career Counseling: Make use of your college or university's career services for guidance on your job search, resume building, and interview skills.

2. Networking: Reach out to professors, peers, and alumni who may have connections or advice on internships. Building a professional network can be invaluable.

3. Financial Aid: Explore scholarships, grants, or part-time work opportunities to alleviate financial strain during your internship.

These are just a few options to look into. Just remember that the journey to finding an internship might seem challenging but it is crucial to gain experience to achieve a fulfilled career.

As Giselle was an assistant there is so much a student can do to get experience at Texas State while attending. It matters who you network with as a student and the opportunities you look for. Think about your teachers, sometimes they will leave links and point students in the direction. You are not alone, when it comes to thinking about getting experience and finding that first job.



Photo by Stephanie Shculz

A known organization that can help students get experience is the student-run organization called the KTSW. Most affiliated with Texas State. Most mass Communication students can benefit from working with KTSW. The organization has so many niche jobs that any student from any major can join. That includes any social media roles, radio broadcasting roles, managements. You get the point. They recently announced opening they

are hiring. Another internship opportunity is taking place at the Texas Tribune. It is a paid fellowship that allows students with skills to get hands-on experience with real life work outside of college. Digital media Students in particular, the Texas Tribune offers roles that deal with product management, graphic design, social media roles and much more.



Texas State Career Services

This is another helpful tool that is completely free to students to use. Career services can point you in the right direction or even a new direction when it comes to getting closer to fulfilling your career goals. Career services offer a multitude of services from professional headshots, advising to go over resumes, cover letters, they even offer professional attire to those who do not possess. All in the name to help bobcats succeed.

Getting Your Portfolio together

Your portfolio is essential and number one next to your resume. In a way, your resume says your skills but your portfolio backs up the said skills written in your resume. Especially for the digital media majors. Any form of a portfolio is essential. It gives future employers an idea of what you as an employee would bring to the table.