

Professional Advice from Start-Ups To IWU Students

I encourage students to not underestimate the importance of professionalism and responsibility.

Continue to prepare for the digital workplace. This work includes researching and understanding digital marketing trends, social media (e.g. – LinkedIn) and how to improve customer service.

Be prepared to know what to do when you don't know what to do.

Be sure to stay engaged, ask questions, offer solutions, and be open to trying new things.

I love when interns come ready to work, always asking what and how things can be better.

Make the most of the experience in terms of networking and professional development.

Take good notes during meetings. Build relationships with colleagues. Figure out what you don't like to do, because it will help you determine what you love to do.

The experience is entirely what you make it. If you can take responsibility for building relationships and adding meaningfully to the organization that you have the privilege to be a part of, that investment will reap so many rewards for you.

If a person has a "can do" attitude and interpersonal skills, they can easily be taught most work specific items.

Be prepared to work independently and know that you will make mistakes but be willing to promptly admit them and learn through fixing them.

When working in a professional organization as an intern, honoring your commitments and making the most of each opportunity relies heavily on your shoulders. Your internship will be what you make it and if you expect to be employed or referred by your internship agency, be prepared to go above and beyond the call of duty.

Always be prepared to communicate. This includes initiating conversations, asking what work needs to be done, continually asking questions when you don't know what to do and also being able to communicate to others to accomplish tasks.

Predictable availability and an enthusiastic work ethic are very helpful.

Be eager and ready to learn. The best kind of interns are ready to hit the ground running but are not afraid to ask for help and direction when needed.