

How to find that not-so-direct path to success

HINT: You don't have to have it all figured out right away!

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start with a major

be flexible + explore

seek advice + make connections

land a killer internship

learn + learn some more

end as a Bugold with a full-time job offer

give wisdom to current and future Bugolds

Accounting

Pre-Med @ UW-La Crosse

Pre-Med

Business Administration

Added **Information Systems double major** junior year after taking classes and talking with advisor about academic plan

Transferred sophomore year into **Pre-Med** @ UW-Madison

Switched to **Accounting** sophomore year after taking an accounting class for fun

Switched to **Psychology** freshman year

Transferred junior year into **Accounting** @ UWEC after hearing brother's experience with great professors

Added **Information Systems double major** after taking a programming class

Switched to double major **Psychology + German** sophomore year

Switched back to **Business Administration** junior year

attended **Career Conference**

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consulted with accounting advisor D'Arcy Becker

elected Secretary of Student Accounting Society

took classes outside core major/minor "just for fun"

worked @ Career Services & took self-assessments

took information systems classes with Tony Keys + Jean Pratt

served on College of Business Student Advisory Council

consulted with Professor Dawna Drum + advisor Jean Pratt

attended Career Services Internship Mania

used **Career Services** for CareerLink, resume building, interview tips, job offer comparisons

connected with fellow student who was a former Ernst & Young intern

used **Career Services** for mock interviews

developed relationships with Jan Bednar and other business professors

used **Career Services** for reviewing interview questions, resumes, and cover letters, and mock interview practice

Cargill

Ernst & Young + SVA Certified Public Accountants

Church Mutual Insurance

Sherwin Williams

Worked in business intelligence with three interns from around the country on creating a real-time dashboard using SAP data

Worked as an audit intern in the financial services industry assigned to two large banking clients

Designed + programmed a web application for a key piece of functionality in the Underwriting department with another IT intern

Evaluated financial reports, shadowed sales reps, and interviewed company leaders about their paths through the company

Evaluated social sentiment data combined with sales data to better understand public viewpoint's effect on sales

Sat in on client meetings and worked directly with seniors + managers in the firm

Used a wide variety of programming languages including HTML, CSS, Javascript, Java, Struts, and SQL as well as architecture software

Helped customers select paint colors and recommended proper paint types for their tasks

Designed + implemented a tool for assessing managed service supplier performance

Traveled for a week of training to Chicago and a week in Disney World with 3,500 Ernst & Young interns from all over the world

Created a training tool for new employees that was so effective it has been implemented in every Sherwin Williams in the Twin Cities metro

Established workflow to assess internal clients' satisfaction with tech suppliers

double major in Accounting + Information Systems, Business Analysis Emphasis

Accounting

double major in Accounting + Information Systems

Business Administration



"The biggest piece of advice I'd give underclassmen is find something you are passionate about and get involved. These experiences are the things that both Cargill and PwC wanted to hear about. Be open to new experiences that you may not have considered before. Finally, network, network, network. Talk to as many people as you can, find mentors that you can get advice from and learn from. Since I had a relationship with Dr. Drum and had gone to her office a couple of times, she was able to connect me with the right people. Without Dr. Drum's help I don't think I would have even considered PwC."

"My best advice for underclassmen is to go to Career Conference before you're looking for an internship so that the next time you go, when it really matters, the butterflies will be a little more manageable. Also, utilize resources like the career advisors, workshops, and mock interviews put on by Career Services. Interviewing is such an important life skill and practicing it early on gives you more time to get comfortable with it for when it really matters."

"Apply to many places and keep an open mind. You learn more in an internship than you do in an entire year of school and you do so in a stress-free environment. I soon realized that an internship was basically like school without the tests and homework. So the fun part — learning!"

"Go to Internship Mania and Career Conference. Reach out to employers. Ask questions. The interview is as much a chance for employers to get to know you, as it is for you to get to know them. Use Career Services; the whole point of them being there is to help you get a job; they want you to succeed. Internships are a great way to gain experience in your field that make you a stronger candidate against the rest when you apply for jobs after graduation!"