Gaining experience is easier than you think

By: Juliane Molitor, Student Marketing and Communications Assistant

“You need to gain experience.” It seems like everyone is telling you this, and you know it’s true. But how do you get started? It can be a stressful experience, but it doesn’t have to be. Gaining experience and building your resume is easier than you think.

**Building your Resume:** Any work experience can help build your resume. Most employers understand that you need to start somewhere and are willing to hire you even if you don’t have a lot of work experience right off the bat. What is important is to show that you know how to work. Proving that you can show up to work on time and have the commitment to work somewhere, even if it’s as a dog walker or a babysitter, shows an employer you have the potential to work for them.

**Shadowing/Volunteering:** You don’t necessarily have to have a job to gain experience—shadowing and volunteering can be just as effective. While shadowing someone, you can gain insight into that career and see if you would like it. Volunteering at an organization can give you the same insight, and it shows potential employers that you have the commitment and willingness to work, even when it’s unpaid. Both experiences can help you build your network.

**How we can help:** Through the Career Services website you can access the electronic job board to find part-time jobs for the summer. Career Services is also open during the summer months so you can utilize our services, like having your resume reviewed. You can also find summer and fall internships through HireNKU. Internships are a great way to show employers you have the knowledge and related experience that qualifies you to work for them.
Spotlight on a major

**Major:** Visual Communications Design, School of the Arts

**Degrees awarded:** B.A. and B.F.A.*

**What it is:** Graphic design is the new method of communication by presenting information and ideas through visual representation. The visual communications design program at NKU develops each student as a creator and gives them the tools through structured programs and creative experiences to develop their own style and mold their own career.

**What you can do with it:** You will learn the fundamentals of visual communications through photography, computer graphics, design graphics, drawing, film, writing skills and much more. Career paths could lead you to:

- Graphic Designer
- Art Director
- Industrial/Product Designer
- Media Arts Animator
- Film and Video Editor
- Marketing Manager

**Where you can work:** There are study abroad opportunities in London, Mexico, Italy and Spain for the students of Visual Arts at NKU. Through the Northern Kentucky University’s School of the Arts program students can also have their work shown in the art galleries. Examples of local employers with job opportunities for Visual Communications Design are:

- P&G
- University of Cincinnati
- Kroger
- American Modern Insurance
- Mercy Health

**How you can get started:** For more information on course requirements, please visit the NKU [Course Catalog](#) or the SOTA website.

*A portfolio review is required in the sophomore year for full admittance into this major.

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**EDU 294: Career Development**

EDU 294 (formerly CEP 101) is a ten-week, two-credit elective class that is designed to provide career planning knowledge and skills.

This class is small and it places an emphasis on identifying the interests and skills of the students as well as clarifying personal values and exploring career/major options.

To register for EDU 294-001, speak with an advisor and check the Fall 2018 course catalog.

**Career Services**

UC 225 | 859.572.5680
careerservices@nk.edu

[nku.edu/careerservices](http://nku.edu/careerservices)

Spring Hours:
M-F 8:15 am-4:30 pm
TH 8:15 am-5 pm