How to Rock the Career Fair
Agenda

• The Career Fair - what to expect
• Do’s and Don’ts
• Resources
• Resume Tips
Before the Career Fair

- Prep your 30 Second Commercial
- Draft your resume and have it reviewed
- CS Resume Review Workshop Wednesday February 15th
- Research the companies attending the fair

[cs.umd.edu/cscareerfair/students](cs.umd.edu/cscareerfair/students)
30 Second Commercial

- Your Name, Class Year, Major
- Career Interests
- Work Experience
- Activities
- Type of Career Information or Job/Internship you are Seeking
30 Second Commercial

• Introduce yourself: “Hi I’m a (senior, graduate student, sophomore, etc.) majoring in Computer Science. My name is________.” Then continue with more information about you and a question you have based on your research about that company OR “I’m interested in learning about what type of opportunities might be available at your organization.”

• Be prepared to continue by answering the recruiter’s questions. Examples: “What type of job/internship are you seeking?” “What experience do you have the makes you qualified?”

• Tailor your commercial to each employer you approach
Stick out from the Crowd

- Be You
- Be Unique
- Remember to Stick out for the RIGHT Reasons
Appropriate Dress

• KNOW THE COMPANY!
• Do not wear sweatpants or t-shirts with holes in them. You are welcome to wear jeans and t-shirts, just be neat.
• Many companies have a very relaxed culture. However, some of them do require more formal attire at work.
• Consider not wearing a t-shirt with a competitor’s name on it.
Examples:
Examples:

**DO**
- Casual, yet polished
- Tip: Carry a blazer for more formality
- Tip: To make the look less formal, the suit jacket can easily be removed
- Shirt, tie coordinate well with suit
- Shirt cuffs show only slightly at the wrist
- Fits well: freshly pressed
- Shoes polished

**DON'T**
- Untucked shirt creates an unkempt, messy appearance
- Dress shirt and cotton khakis are a mismatch
- Messy hair
- Too small
- Too long
- Pants are too short, don't match jacket
- Shoes, socks not coordinated well with suit
- Too casual for any interview

Tip: Make sure your outfit is free of wrinkles and stains, your hair and nails are well-groomed and your shoes are polished.

Photos courtesy of OfficeTeam.
During the Career Fair

• Be on time
• Bring your student ID for check in
• Have multiple copies of your resume
• Collect business cards
• Be aware of how much time you’re spending with recruiters
• Be ready to answer technical questions if a recruiter asks
• Be prepared to share your interests, accomplishments, and goals
• Explain how you might fit in with or serve a particular company
After the Career Fair

• Follow up with recruiters
• Prepare for the possibility of On Campus Interviews
• Practice for interviews
**Do’s and Don’ts**

**Do!**
- Your research! Check out companies you want to speak within advance.
- Pay attention to your social media accounts and what employers can see. Update and use LinkedIn!
- Be sure to follow up! Write interesting facts or anything to remember on the back of business cards.

**Don’t!**
- Forget multiple copies of your resume.
- Forget to practice your 30 second commercial.
- Take materials or swag from a recruiter without introducing yourself.
Resources

- University Career Center & The President’s Promise careers.umd.edu
- Interprep cs.umd.edu/groups/interprep
- Getting a Gig: A Guide
  https://github.com/cassidoo/getting-a-gig/blob/master/README.md
Resume Tips

• Timing- you have 5 seconds to make a first impression with your resume
• Remember your audience! Make it easy for them to review
  • 1 page, 10-12pt, easy to read font
  • Concise bullet points/no run-ons!
  • Technical/Computer Skills section
  • Strong action verbs
  • Quantify your experience
  • Be specific- what was your role on a project?
  • Show what results you have produced
  • BE HONEST!
No Experience?

• **Get Some:** Volunteer for a job that is similar to your interests, your passion for technology, ANYTHING

• **Add Work to Past Projects:** Take the class project you worked on last year and update it for practice, rewrite some code from a past project- keep building your skills

• **Break into the Field:** Get closer to the fields you are interested in, even if it’s working in an office

• **Don’t Let No Experience Stop You:** It’s tricky, since it takes experience to get experience. Focus on School, on leadership, etc. and highlight that
Career Fair Prep Walk-Ins

• Tuesday February 14th, 2-4pm in 2321 Symons Hall
• Wednesday February 15th, 2-4pm in 1320 Symons Hall
• Thursday February 16th, 2-4pm in 1320 Symons Hall
• Monday February 20th, 2-4pm in 2321 Symons Hall
When? Where?

• Computer Science Career & Internship Fair
  Tuesday, February 21, 2017
  Riggs Alumni Center
  4-8pm

• Spring Career & Internship Fair
  Wednesday thru Friday, February 22-24, 2017
  Stamp, Grand Ballroom
  12-5pm
Questions?

Rachel Wobrak
Program Director
University Career Center @ CMNS
1320 Symons Hall
rwobrak@umd.edu

CS Career Fair website: cs.umd.edu/cscareerfair/
SCIF: Careers.umd.edu