



Experience

Nearly every employer wants job applicants who have at least one previous and relevant "experience." The term "experience" often is associated with a previous job, but "experience" can be more broadly defined than that. "Experience" can include job shadowing, internships, volunteerism, service learning projects, leadership opportunities, and TSJC involvement opportunities.

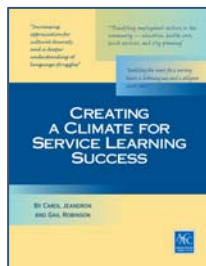
▪ Volunteering/Service Learning Projects

You don't need to get paid in order to develop great skills and gain experience! Some of the best experiences are in volunteer settings. Not only do you get experience in your career field, you are able to help another person or your community!

Some ideas for finding a volunteer position/service learning projects:

- Start by identifying the type of experience you would like to gain. Do you want to learn more about how a hospital works? Would you like to see what working in an office setting involves? Answers to these questions can guide what type of organization you pursue.
- Research where you might be able to find a setting that would provide you with opportunity to experience the work you may have interest in and where you could contribute. Often, non-profit organizations can use assistance and provide excellent opportunities to gain a wide variety of skills.
- Contact someone within your target organizations, explaining that you are seeking a volunteer opportunity and what you are hoping to gain from the experience. Offer to assist them in meeting their needs. Ask to meet with them to see if the volunteer experience would be mutually beneficial.

▪ Service Learning Projects



"Growing numbers of community colleges are incorporating service learning into the curriculum. While research has documented many benefits to those who participate in this experiential pedagogy, a primary goal of service learning is to increase students' learning of course materials." (Prentice, M. & Robinson, G. AACC, Improving Student Learning Outcomes with Service Learning, 2010). American Association of Community Colleges selected eight colleges in a national grant competition in 2006 to become *Horizons* Mentee Colleges. To promote and expand service learning throughout the college, TSJC Valley Campus identified specific faculty to receive training and mentoring to incorporate service learning and civic responsibility components into their course syllabi.

▪ Job Shadowing

Job Shadowing is great way to get an inside look at a potential career. You can experience "a typical day" of any occupation by arranging to meet and "shadow" a person who is currently in a job you're interested in.

To arrange a job shadow, identify a work setting you would like to know more about, research options, and contact a professional to ask if they might allow you to visit their workplace. This is an opportunity to learn a great deal about the day-to-day work and also to showcase your own professionalism. Be prepared to come with a set of questions you would like answered and dress and act professionally. Remember to thank your host after your job shadow experience. Be sure to send a thank you note after your visit!

▪ Internships

An "internship" is a work-related experience that most closely resembles "the real world." Most internships are temporary assignments that last a few months up to a semester. Students work in both paid and unpaid internships, depending on their career field and the internship provider. Ideally, interns are given "real-life" work that they will do in the future to help grow their skills and connect their academic coursework to the "world of work." Though some TSJC programs require an internship, any TSJC student can benefit from gaining internship experience before graduating or transferring.

While developing professional skills and adding to your experience, an internship can assist you in clarifying your career direction, what you like and what you don't like. It is valuable to know if the path you are pursuing is really what you think it will be like. An internship will also help you apply your classroom knowledge to the "real world". Additionally, an internship can be a key component in finding your next job. Many employers hire for their entry level positions directly from their internship program.

Available internships are posted through [College Central Network](#). You may be able to connect with professors and other people you know to identify internship options. One of the best ways to find an internship is to create it yourself. You can propose the internship you are most interested in and create the best opportunity for yourself.

Employers and students interested in our internship program can click below to view our new Internship Handbook.



- [Standard Agreement](#)
- [Learning Objectives](#)
- [Weekly Time Sheets](#)
- [Student Evaluation](#)
- [Organizational Sponsor Evaluation](#)

Internships are now available to students using [TSJC Online/D2L](#). New to [TSJC Online/D2L](#)? – [click here to view a help guide with step by step instructions.](#)

Leadership Opportunities

One major trait that employers look for in a job applicant is whether they have "leadership skills." Whether you're a vocal, visible leader or a behind-the-scenes leader, employers want to see that you can take the initiative to get the job done.

There are many opportunities to show this on your resume by completing team projects, attending leadership conferences or joining student clubs on campus.

Recognized Student Clubs

A great way to be active at TSJC and gain leadership experience is to join a student club, or start one yourself. There are many kinds of [clubs to join](#), including cultural clubs, recreation opportunities, academic organizations, and [Student Government](#). For more information on Clubs, contact Charlene Duran at (719) 846-5517 or Charlene.Duran@trinidadstate.edu.

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