

UMassAmherst

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To “Helicopter” or Not, That is the Question?

As Director of Career Services at UMass Amherst, and the parent of two former students, I have a definite opinion on the subject. My children have been amazingly successful following their graduation. The one piece of advice which they listened to me was doing as many quality internships while they were in school as possible. You and your son or daughter, are very fortunate that you chose UMass Amherst. UMass Amherst has a strong tradition with internships and co-op placements. UMass Amherst is one of the only major universities in the country which permits most of its students to receive up to 18 credits for off-campus internships. A few of the schools and colleges at UMass Amherst, such as Engineering and Isenberg, have a strong tradition in co-ops for their students.

What I suggest you do is become familiar with the UMass Career Services web site at www.umass.edu/careers. Our site lists Career Fairs, Workshops and special events such as our Employer Networking Nights. The Networking Nights are held in Boston and New York City during the January break. Your son or daughter should be attending as many of our events as they can. They should begin planning when they will participate in an internship or a co-op. Major employers such as IBM, General Electric, The Late Show with David Letterman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many more local and regional employers actively seek our students to do internships and co-ops.

I strongly encourage your son or daughter to apply to the semester placements if they are not successful in obtaining a summer placement. They are in a much stronger position with an employer when they seek a semester placement. Introductory workshops for internships and co-ops are offered most Mondays and Thursdays at 3 p.m. in Goodell 508. Should you or your son or daughter have questions please feel free to email me at jis@acad.umass.edu.

Jeff Silver, Director Career Services
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