

# CAREER GUIDE

#### **Center for Career Development**

- in @ Linkedin.com/company/tntechcareer
- **f** @ TNTechCareer
- (a) TNTechCareer



AVER/TT. + YOU = SUCCESS



HEADQUARTERED RIGHT HERE
IN COOKEVILLE, WE'RE A
LEADING TRANSPORTATION AND
LOGISTICS COMPANY WITH A
50-YEAR TRACK RECORD OF
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT!

When it comes to building a long-term career, you're looking for a future with growth opportunities – and that's where Averitt can help. We're a transportation provider, meaning we work as a team to move freight from point A to point B, all around the world. The world may be our workplace, but the Upper Cumberland is our home.

So where are you headed after graduation? Looking to stay close to home? Our Corporate campus is located right down the street, and we'd love to help you get started. Looking to get a little farther away? No problem! We have over a hundred locations throughout the Southeast.



#### INTERNSHIPS

Learn about the diverse services we provide while receiving exposure to various aspects of the supply chain management cycle.

Averitt is the sponsor of Tennessee Tech's Operations, Logistics, and Supply Chain Management minor and one of the largest employers of Tech grads in the region.



#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A 3–6-month training program designed to prepare you for a leadership opportunity within our company.



#### CORPORATE POSITIONS

We offer various corporate positions, such as, HR, marketing, IT, software engineering, accounting, and more.

#### For more information visit:

AverittCareers.com/NextSteps

EOE/AA including Veterans and Disabled













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## STATE OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT

## Your Future Starts Now: Navigating Your Career Journey at Tennessee Tech

The whispers on campus are a familiar tune: "Freshman year is too early to think about careers!" We hear it, and we understand. Settling into new living quarters, forging friendships, and embracing the vibrant social scene are undoubtedly top priorities. But while you're busy making memories, your career trajectory has, in fact, already begun!

Think about it: Your choice of college, your academic major, the electives you strategically select, the clubs and organizations you passionately support, and your leadership within them – every single one of these decisions is actively molding the skillsets and experiences that will define your professional future. Your journey of skill-building, coupled with your growing competency in the classroom, is transforming you into the pre-professional you are destined to become. Career development isn't a future event; it's a continuous motion, an ongoing evolution.

This very understanding is why we are incredibly proud to announce that Tennessee Tech has selected the GOLD Career Readiness program, alongside its focus on Durable Skills, as our new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Beginning Fall 2025, the GOLD Career Readiness Program will take center stage, boasting a higher profile than ever before. Last year alone, our Center for Career Development proudly awarded over 500 GOLD Career Readiness Certifications to deserving freshmen and sophomores. With the GOLD Program now integrated into first-year experience coursework this fall, we anticipate that number could easily triple – a testament to our commitment to your success.

The GOLD program is meticulously designed around the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) career competencies. This means you won't just be developing crucial employability skills; you'll be actively learning how and where you are acquiring them, and perhaps most importantly, how to effectively translate these invaluable skills onto your resume and confidently articulate them in interviews. Bravo, Tech!

This enhanced focus on career readiness couldn't be more timely, especially given the significant rise in skills-based hiring practices. As we noted in last year's Career Guide, less than 40% of employers were solely screening on GPA. The landscape has shifted dramatically, with employers increasingly prioritizing practical skills and demonstrable competencies over traditional academic credentials. Nearly two-thirds reported using skills-based hiring practices "all or most of the time," emphasizing that your major, industry knowledge, and particularly your internship experiences, are more crucial than ever. Over the past year, technology-based skills in data analytics, software development and design, and cybersecurity were in high demand, alongside strong needs in healthcare, accounting, finance, marketing, and sales.

So, as you embark on your collegiate journey, here's the smart advice: focus on acclimating to campus, get off to a strong academic start, explore interesting clubs and organizations that align with your passions, and critically consider how every experience can contribute to building the skills, experiences, and professional contacts that will define your chosen field of study. Your future is not a distant concept; it's being shaped by the choices you make, starting today. Welcome to Tennessee Tech, and welcome to the beginning of your exciting career journey!

#### **WINGS UP!**



## WHY VISIT YOUR CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT?

#### **EXPLORE**

Learn about the resources and events the Center for Career Development has available for you. Assess how your values, skills and interests can help you find the right major and career. Connect with a Career Development staff member to discuss a personalized career plan.

#### **ENGAGE**

Attend workshops to develop your online brand, career fair strategies and more.

Participate in our Career Readiness Certification programs (GOLD – freshman/sophomore & PURPLE – junior/seniors/graduate) to help you stay on track with your career development. Utilize this Career Guide and/or Career Development appointments with staff members to refine your resume. Practice your interview skills with at least one mock interview video session. Participate in as many job fairs as possible.

#### **EXPERIENCE**

Prepare for upcoming career fairs and on-campus interviews. Try and complete as many experiential assignments and/or leadership positions as you possibly can. Learn to translate your skills and experiences onto your resume and into your answers to interview questions.

#### **CONTACT US**

#### Location

Roaden University Center, 3rd floor, Room 328

#### **Office Hours**

Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Email: career@tntech.edu

Website: www.tntech.edu/career

Phone: (931) 372-3232

**Schedule an Appointment:** 

www.tntech.edu/career/handshake





## CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES PREPARE FOR YOUR JOB SEARCH

Setting yourself up for a successful career requires preparation. You are investing thousands of hours to get your degree. Taking shortcuts in the job search process will decrease your chances of getting the job you really want. Take advantage of Career Development resources to organize an effective job search and achieve your career goals!

#### Learn to:

#### **NETWORK**

Create a group of contacts and keep it active through regular communication for mutual benefit. Networking is one of the most useful tools you will learn to be successful in your job search.

#### RESEARCH EMPLOYERS

Learn about resources to assist you in obtaining more information on employers that interest you. Impress recruiters with your knowledge of their organization.

#### WRITE AN EFFECTIVE RESUME

Provide a summary of your qualifications and experience that communicates enough information to an employer to get you the interview you want.

## COMPOSE PROFESSIONAL LETTERS

Write effective cover and thank you letters to positively influence whether you are considered for a position.

## MAKE A CAREER FAIR WORK FOR YOU

Develop a winning elevator pitch, learn how to dress and what to bring and discover strategies to achieve results from your career fair attendance.

#### **INTERVIEW**

Capitalize on your professional preparation to convince an employer why you're the best person for the job.



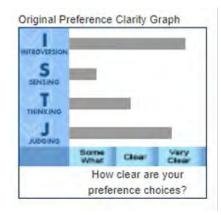
## EXPLORE YOUR INTERESTS WITH TYPEFOCUS!

#### **PERSONALITY**

Explore your personality profile

- Gain insights into your own behaviors
- Understand how to identify what makes you unique
- Value difference in positive ways that promote synergy and teamwork

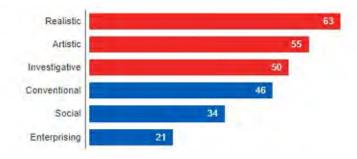
Tech students can take the TypeFocus Assessment at: www.tntech.edu/career/students/assessment.php



#### **VOCATIONAL INTEREST**

Explore your natural strengths and preferences

- Learn your natural skills as they pertain to the workplace
- Identify skills and learn how to discuss those skills with employers
- · Identify potentials for improvement



## EVALUATE AND COMPARE MAJORS AND CAREER FIELDS!

CareerSpots provides brief informational videos covering hundreds of occupations that you may be interested in. This is a great tool to further explore major and career interests throughout your college journey.

Go to www.tntech.edu/career/students/advice-videos.php to start exploring careers!





# Handshake

## THE IMPORTANCE OF HANDSHAKE TO YOUR JOB SUCCESS

All Tech students interested in improving their chances of finding quality employment while in school or after should register their Handshake, Tennessee Tech's job and career development gateway, account. This is your one-stop platform for everything career!

#### Handshake is your access to:

- Full Time Jobs
- Internships / Co-ops
- Part Time Jobs
- Peer to Peer Communication
- Resume Storage
- Employer Data
- Job and Event Alerts
- Career Fairs
- Employer Events
- Center for Career Development Programs and Services

Current Tech students can access their Handshake account quickly from within your TechExpress portal at https://express.tntech.edu.
Just look for the Handshake icon!



With your first login, **Handshake** will prompt you to completely fill out your profile. Upload a resume, add clubs, organizations, classes, skills and interests.

**As you utilize the platform**, it will then "learn" and pair you with information related to events, employers, jobs and opportunities relevant to you. This also includes recommending jobs and activities that match your skills, interests and major listed on your profile.

Student and Alumni Handshake Login www.tntech.edu/career/handshake

#### Student and Alumni Handshake Help Center

Visit the link above and click on "Handshake Help Center" or contact career@tntech.edu.

**Full Name:** Tech Email: T#:







Center for Career Development

TENNESSEE TECH





Enterprise Mobility™



Applications and all documentations need to be completed in Fall semester 2025 and turned in by NOVEMBER 21, 2025, AT 8 A.M. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline.

Submit applications at https://tf.tntech.edu/view.php?id=1719553, email career@tntech.edu or by dropping off at Roaden University Center, 328.

### PART 1 - SELF EXPLORATION

**COMPLETE BOTH ASSIGNMENTS IN PART ONE:** 

- Complete TypeFocus self-assessment at www.tntech.edu/career/students/assessment.php
- Complete the Career Plan Builder on ISURIZ.com

Be sure to review each assignment in detail in the Assignments sections of your iLEARN class

### PART 2 - SKILL BUILDING

СОМР	LETE <b>BOTH</b> ASSIGNMENTS IN PART TWO:
	Watch "Intro to Applying Career Competencies" on ISURIZ.com. Complete the Knowledge Test and upload certificate of achievement to the documents section of your Handshake account under "other documents."
<b>1</b> 2.	Career Engagement Activity. Complete one.
0	Option 1 Join a Campus Club or Community Organization* Examples: Affinity Club, Professional Organization, Greek Organization, Student Government Organization Name:
0	Option 2 Complete a 750-word academic paper on an occupation of interest that cites at least two sources.  www.bls.gov www.careeronestop.org www.tn.gov/workforce.html
0	Option 3 Attend one of the following CO-OP/Internship Meet-ups:
	September 9   11 a.m. RUC, Multipurpose Room  September 25   11 a.m. RUC, Multipurpose Room  RUC, Multipurpose Room  RUC, Multipurpose Room  RUC, Multipurpose Room

### PART 3 - INTRODUCTION TO JOB SEARCH

#### **COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNMENTS IN PART THREE:**

#### ■ Building Your Handshake Profile

Be sure to complete sections on Major, Summary, (2) Courses and (2) Current Skills.

Be sure to mark your profile "public" to receive credit for this assignment.

#### ☐ Resume Design and Upload

Watch the Resume Writing Tutorial Parts 1 and 2 on ISURIZ.com (*in class or as a homework assignment*). Construct your employer-ready resume from the tutorial and upload it to your Handshake account under "other documents."

#### ■ Interviewing Skills and Introduction to STAR-L

Watch the (12:35) Interview Preparation – An Introduction to STAR-L on ISURIZ.com (*in class or as a homework assignment*). Take the Knowledge Test and download the certification of completion to your Handshake account under "other" documents.

As part of this assignment go to the STAR-L Worksheet module on ISURIZ.com and complete STAR-L answers for the interview question: "Tell us how you came to choose Tennessee Tech as your college of choice? Please walk us through your decision-making process."

(Save your answers and download PDF to your Handshake account under "other documents").

Be sure to review each assignment in detail in the Assignments sections of your iLEARN class

### COMPETENCIES FOR A CAREER-READY WORKFORCE

#### WHAT IS CAREER READINESS?

Career readiness is a foundation from which to demonstrate requisite core competencies that broadly prepare the college educated for success in the workplace and lifelong career management.

naceweb.org/career-readiness-competencies



#### **CAREER & SELF DEVELOPMENT**

Proactively develop oneself and one's career through continual personal and professional learning, awareness of one's strengths and weaknesses, navigation of career opportunities and networking to build relationships within and without one's organization.



#### CRITICALTHINKING

Identify and respond to needs based upon an understanding of situational context and logical analysis of relevant information.



#### LEADERSHIP

Recognize and capitalize on personal and team strengths to achieve organizational goals.



#### **TEAMWORK**

Build and maintain collaborative relationships to work effectively toward common goals, while appreciating diverse viewpoints and shared responsibilities.



#### COMMUNICATION

Clearly and effectively exchange information, ideas, facts and perspectives with persons inside and outside of an organization.



#### **PROFESSIONALISM**

Knowing work environments differ greatly, understand and demonstrate effective work habits and act in the interest of the larger community and workplace.



#### **TECHNOLOGY**

Understand and leverage technologies ethically to enhance efficiencies, complete tasks and accomplish goals.

Full Name: Tech Email: T#:

# PURPLE 2.0 NEW AND IMPROVED!

PURPLE Career Readiness Certification has been streamlined for academic year 2024-2025! PURPLE is now easier for students to accomplish. More online, self-paced assignments, less in-person attendance. See below for details.

Applications and all documentations need to be completed in Fall semester 2025 and be turned in by November 21, 2025 at 8 a.m. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline. Submit applications at https://tf.tntech.edu/view.php?id=1719296, email career@tntech.edu, or by dropping off at Roaden University Center, 328.

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Center for Career Development

TENNESSEE TECH

## Part 1 - Getting Experience

STUDENT MUST HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OR COMPLETED TWO OF THE FOLLOWING:		
Part-time Job while in college*		
Completed internship, Cooperative Education assignment, clinical experience, or student teaching*		
Study or intern abroad* (domestic students abroad only)		
Leadership position in a campus club or organization		
NCAA athlete or Tech club sport participation		
Senior design or capstone project		
Community service or service learning project while in college		
Enrolled in a professional development course white at Tech. List class and instructor name.		
Complete Linked-In Learning assignment, Creating Great First Impressions, at https://www.linkedin.com/learning/creating-great-first-impressions/your-first-impression-challenge?u=26115762.		
Upload certificate to Handshake documents to receive credit.		
*Must appear on student's resume uploaded to Handshake to receive credit.		
Must appear on students resulte uproaded to Handshake to receive credit.		
Part 2 - Getting Ready for What Comes Next		
Part 2 - Getting Ready for What Comes Next		
Part 2 - Getting Ready for What Comes Next  COMPLETE ALL THREE ASSIGNMENTS IN PART TWO.		
Part 2 - Getting Ready for What Comes Next  COMPLETE ALL THREE ASSIGNMENTS IN PART TWO.  1. Complete one of the following:		
Part 2 - Getting Ready for What Comes Next  COMPLETE ALL THREE ASSIGNMENTS IN PART TWO.  1. Complete one of the following:  Attend one job fair. Must scan Eagle Card to receive credit.  September 18   10 a.m 2 p.m. September 18   4 - 5:30 p.m. Construction Management Fair  Part-time Job Fair		
Part 2 - Getting Ready for What Comes Next  COMPLETE ALL THREE ASSIGNMENTS IN PART TWO.  ☐ 1. Complete one of the following:  ☐ Attend one job fair. Must scan Eagle Card to receive credit.  ☐ September 18   10 a.m 2 p.m. ☐ Construction Management Fair Hooper-Eblen Center  ☐ August 27   1 a.m 1 p.m. Part-time Job Fair Centennial Plaza  ☐ Attend three Careers 'n Coffees. To receive credit, you must check-in at QR code on the employer's table.		

2. Complete all three.	TOTIDIE
resume. Upload your employer-ready resume to Handshake documents.	"Knowledg Certifcate
Upload a professional-looking headshot to Handshake.	hievement
Complete Handshake profile by completing the following sections: Work History, Summary, add at least two cuskills, and a list of at least four classes preferably in your major. Be sure to make your resume "public" to receive for this assignment.	
3. Complete TWO of the following:	
O Complete a Job Search Strategy appointment with the Career Development Office.	
Complete three of the Life Skills videos on Isuriz at https://isuriz.com, take the quizzes and upload the completion certificates to Handshake documents.	
Complete the "Job Offers" video on ISURIZ.com and take the knowledge test on "Understanding the Job Offer" "Negotiating the Job Offer" only. Download the certificates of achievement and upload the certificates to your Handshake document section under "other documents."	
Attend one Co-op/Internship Meet-up (Meet-ups attended previous semesters can be counted.)	
September 9   11 a.m. RUC, Multipurpose Room	
COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNMENTS IN PART THREE (ALL workshops must be attended in Fall 2025)	
1. Attend one of the following Resume Writing Workshops.  August 26   11 - 11:45 a.m.  Employer Ready Resume Design  RUC, Multipurpose Room  2. Attend one of the following Interview Skills Workshops.	
September 4   11 - 11:45 a.m.  Professional Interviewing Strategy RUC, Multipurpose Room  October 23   11 - 11:45 a.m.  Professional Interviewing Strategy RUC, Multipurpose Room  November 6   11 - 11:45 a.m.  Professional Interviewing Strategy RUC, Multipurpose Room  RUC, Multipurpose Room	
3. Complete all three assignments on Isuriz at ISURIZ.com	ISURIZ.com
Watch the STAR-L Response Method video, take the quiz and upload the completion certificate to Handshake documents under "other documents".	"Knowledg Certifcate (
Watch the Applying Career Competencies video, take the quiz and upload the completion certificate to Handshake documents under "other documents".	hievement
Complete the Career Competencies Worksheet and upload the completion certificate to Handshake documents under "other documents".	
4. Attend two additional workshops.	
September 11   11 – 11:45 a.m.  Making a Great Impression at a Job Fair – Employer Panel  RUC, Multipurpose Room  September 16   11 – 11:45 a.m.  Last Second Success Tips For Job Fair Season  RUC, Multipurpose Room	
October 14   11 - 11:45 a.m.  Making Great Presentations with Dr. Scott Christen  RUC, Multipurpose Room  November 4   11 - 11:45 a.m.  How Will I Be Evaluated On My First job?  RUC, Tech Pride Room  RUC, Multipurpose Room  RUC, Multipurpose Room	



## **EMPLOYER SPECIALTY EVENTS**

The Center for Career Development hosts employers throughout the academic year. These employers are on campus with the goal of meeting YOU! Be sure to watch for these Employer Specialty Events and make plans to attend and learn what positions they have - you may be the perfect fit!



**Careers n' Coffee** events offer employers an opportunity to meet Tennessee Tech students in a highly visible, convenient and casual way on campus. Employers bring normal career fair type collateral, banners, handouts and giveaways and spend a couple of hours serving coffee while interacting with students. The event is typically between 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.; however, hours are flexible. Be sure to look for opportunities to hold your Career's n' Coffee event in our new Ashraf Islam Building!

A new way to meet employers is happening here on campus! **Employers in Residence** is a brand-new way of bringing the employer to YOU. Do not miss this opportunity to connect with an employer in a Residence Hall on Tennessee Tech's Campus and learn not only about their organization, but receive career guidance, tips and tricks for the industry, and what a "day in the life" may be like with that employer in that specific industry!



These events allows you, the student, to have a casual conversation with employers outside of career fairs to learn more about the company, their opportunities and your next steps to potentially APPLY! Employers in Residence will typically be held in the Maddox/McCord Classroom.

Visit EVENTS in Handshake for a full listing of Employer Specialty Events on campus.



## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING: PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE

Employers are looking for candidates with experience in their major. Your solution to meeting this requirement is to participate in hands-on learning experiences – at least one internship, clinical rotation, practicum or co-op assignment while you are in college. If you start early enough in your sophomore year, you have the opportunity to participate in two or three experience-building positions that will provide you with insight into your career field. You'll learn firsthand about the culture of your profession, as well as communication and interpersonal skills needed to succeed in your field. The great news about participating in one of these programs is the end result: many students are offered full-time positions with their employer. Imagine graduating with a job waiting for you!

#### What steps should you follow?

- 1. Apply! Most opportunities will require you to apply online through an organization website, career portal or Handshake
- **2.** Interview for the position. Start by reviewing this Career Guide for the most up to date information on preparing for the interview process.
- **3.** What happens once you are one the job? Be prepared for work each day, listen closely to leadership and be ready to learn. Earn the practical employment experience employers want to see on your resume!
- **4.** Once you complete the opportunity, you will want to capture the experience and update your resume.

Taking part in an experiential education opportunity like an internship, practicum, clinical rotation or co-op can boost your knowledge of your chosen degree path. At times, it may also pay off financially.



Scan the code above to view our new Internship videos that covers all aspects of finding and preparing for an experiential assignment. As always, consult with the Center for Career Development on how we can assist you in this important piece of your professional development.

# YOUR GUIDE TO COOPERATIVE EDUCATION KNOW THE STEPS FOR ENROLLMENT



## VOLUNTEERING, SERVICE LEARNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



These experiences can be transferred to your resume and used by you during interviews to highlight skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving and/or communications. For a full understanding of how Volunteering, Services learning and Community Services add to your skillset please visit Tech's Student Engagement website at www.tntech.edu/engagment/index.

# OTHER TYPES OF WORK EXPERIENCES NOT RELATED TO YOUR FIELD OF STUDY

#### **OWNING YOUR OWN SMALL BUSINESS**

Some students will have experiences where they performed work through running their own small business. These experiences can show initiative, leadership, customer service, organization and entrepreneurial skill among others. Examples may include yard businesses, auto repair, web services, dog or house sitting, babysitting, tutoring and others.

#### **WORKING FOR YOUR FAMILY**

Many Tech students' parents/guardians' own businesses and you may have performed work for your parents/guardians to assist them in running their business. These experiences can often be very valuable from a skill- building/experience standpoint and, in most cases, would be something you would include on your resume. These experiences do not have to be related to your field of study to be included on your resume but may be separated from "related" experiences like internships or cooperative education assignments.

<sup>\*</sup>Please see the resume examples on pages 20 - 21 for examples.





## WRITE AN EFFECTIVE RESUME

Your initial resume should be a well-organized, one-page summary demonstrating how you are qualified for a specific position. Accentuate your skills and experiences that most directly relate to the requirements of the position. Use concrete (strong) verbs and do your best to use language related to your field of study. Be honest. Your resume should communicate enough information for an employer to seek an interview. Omit personal pronouns (I, my, etc.), be succinct and don't get bogged down in details.

The following are the main components of a resume (visual examples are provided on pages 20 - 21 of this guide):

#### **Identifying Information**

Include your name, address (optional), email and telephone number. Make sure your email address is professional, choose one mailing address (school or home) and ensure your voicemail is set up with an appropriate message.

#### **Objective**

Your objective represents the theme of your resume with the remaining information supporting your goal. Prepare a brief, clearly defined statement indicating the field or position in which you are interested. Include pertinent information: the position or area you are interested in and when you are available to begin.

#### Education

You do not need to list all of the colleges you attended, only those from which you received a degree. Do not include high school information. Your university (including city and state), followed by your degree (most recent first), major and graduation date. Include your GPA only if it is 2.75 or better. If your GPA is less than a 2.75, you may want to identify and share the GPA in your major (if it is over 2.75). If you have worked during college, consider including the percentage of college expenses you paid for or the number of hours worked. Including a phrase such as "Worked 25 hours per week while in school to pay expenses." (this may offset a low GPA).

#### Skills

You may want to include a section that briefly summarizes any skills or qualifications you have gained from class projects, work experience, or extracurricular activities that relate to your objective.

Example: "Familiar with: Access, Visual Basic, C++" in comparison to "Proficient in: SQL, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint"

#### Experience

In a consistent manner, list your experience in reverse chronological order (most recent first). Experiences may include full-time or part-time employment, as well as summer jobs, volunteer work, internships and class projects.

#### Follow these Guidelines

You may separate your work experience into a "Related Experience" section or "Engineering Experience" as the example on page 20 shows. This might include internships, co-ops, summer jobs or even class projects such as senior design or capstone courses. Including your projects from classroom assignments is particularly important when you lack major related experience outside the classroom. Other, non-related to your major work experiences, can be separated into an "Other Work Experience" category (see example on page 20). As a rule, prioritize the inclusion of related experience over unrelated experience.

#### **Honors and Activities**

**Honors**: List any honors that indicate your strong academic abilities, honorary societies, scholarships, awards and dean's list. Also include any honors related to character and/or community service.

**Activities**: Employers look for well-rounded individuals who involve themselves with extracurricular activities. Include both college and community activities. List offices, committees and responsibilities.

#### **Generative AI in Career Development**

In a recent Handshake poll, it was determined that approximately 50% of college students use Generative AI at least once per week. We know that students will be tempted to use different aspects of Generative AI in writing career related documents, such as cover letters and resumes. The Center for Career Development encourages students to learn to write these documents on your own and/or with limited usage of Generative AI. However, if you choose to leverage Generative AI to assist you in writing career related documents, use caution. Career Development suggests your close scrutiny when reviewing any AI enhanced career document to ensure everything your documents indicates about you and your skills and qualifications are verifiable. The tone and tenor of the letter also needs to reflect your experiences and be written in your voice

Using Generative AI to help you re-word or construct an experience into your cover letter or resume is likely a better use of Generative AI's capabilities through their content suggestion tools. Many experts say the smart usage of AI generated content is as a tool you use to create a really great final product, not as a total replacement.

Critics of AI generated cover letter services indicate that one of the primary drawbacks of AI generated cover letters is a lack of personalization. In addition, without proper oversight of your document you run the risk of recruiters and hiring managers knowing your document was AI generated. In the future, AI detection devices will become more prevalent and precise.

Many sites exist that will assist you with writing AI generated content. Be careful when choosing an AI assist site and refrain from sites that charge money for subscriptions. As always, the Center for Career Development is here to assist you in writing any employment related documents you may need. To meet with one of our Career Professionals, login to Handshake and schedule an appointment – www.tntech.edu/career/handshake.

Example resume non-technical with internship

This header is super clean and easy to read

#### **David Crenshaw**

Add: Your Linked In profile

931-840-1215 dcrenshaw@tntech.edu

1212 Willow Avenue Cookeville, TN 38505

www.linkedin.com/in/DC

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

Clearly stated objective, what you want and when!

To obtain an internship for summer 2024 in a marketing/social media or communications related position that can utilize my formal education, training and skills in mass communication.

#### **EDUCATION:**

**Tennessee Technological University**Bachelor of Science / Marketing

Minor / Communication

Roane State Community College Associate of Arts / Communication

**Harriman Chamber of Commerce** 

Good use of metrics to indicate accomplishment Cookeville, TN May 2025 GPA: 3.5

Harriman, TN May 2020

Harriman, TN

hand margins are clean and in line. Only

Right

cities and dates

Summers (2020-2023)

rectly ned Iders

ortant

- Marketing Intern

  Summers (2

  Onducted a needs survey to over 500 members that received a 45% response rate.
  - Using data analysis skills compiled results and created a 12 page report with graphs for the Chamber Member Chairperson utilizing EXCEL and Adobe Illustrator.
  - Organized a membership drive campaign that led to 70 new member registrations.

**Great use of NACE** 

#### **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE:**

**MARKETING EXPERIENCE:** 

Chambers and Johnson Law Firm Front Desk Clerk

Competencies.

Oak Ridge, TN 2019-2020

- Used communication skills to answer 5 line phone system that averaged 20 calls per hour
- Accurately took messages and made appointments for 4 attorneys

#### **ORGANIZATIONS and CAMPUS LEADERSHIP:**

Kappa Sigma Cookeville, TN

Membership Chair 2020-Present

 Led and organized membership drive that culminated in a 7% increase in membership over previous year.

Tennessee Technological University

<u>Gold Career Readiness Certification</u>

Cookeville, TN Fall 2023

 Program focused on NACE 8 career competencies such as leadership, teamwork, communication, technology, critical thinking and professionalism

#### **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:**

**Habitat for Humanity** 

**Various Cities** 

Summers 2020-Present

<u>Volunteer Carpenter</u>

■ Leveraged teamwork and collaboration skills in cons

• Leveraged teamwork and collaboration skills in construction of multiple housing projects in East Tennessee, mostly focusing on framing and finish carpentry.

#### **MARKETING SKILLS:**

Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator; Canva; InDesign: social media platforms

Campus and community involvement looks just like a job



Example resume with an internship

This header is super clean and easy to read

1250 Willow Avenue Cookeville, TN 38505

#### **Steven Crenshaw**

Add: Your linked in profile

931-840-1215

www.linkedin.com/in/PC

screnshaw@tntech.edu

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

Clearly stated objective, what you want and when!

To obtain a full time position for May 2024 in an Electrical Engineering capacity preferably in a power systems environment.

Good use of

accomplishment

metrics to

indicate

#### **EDUCATION:**

**Tennessee Technological University** 

Bachelor of Science / Electrical Engineering

Minor / Criminology

**Roane State Community College** 

Associate of Science

Cookeville, TN December 2024

P GPA: 3.5

Harriman, TN

May 2022

Harriman, TN Summer 2022 hand margins are clean and in line. Only cities and dates

Right

#### **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING RELATED EXPERIENCE:**

**House of Audio** 

rectly ned Iders

ortant

Audio System Intern

- Conducted tests on capacitors and relays to identify out-of-specification performance levels based on product standards.
- Replaced faulty parts by soldering onto circuit board ensuring conductivity and testing with digital multimeter
- Used maximum performance indicator software, tone generators and schematics to successfully problem solve signal path issues

#### **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE:**

**Home Improvement Handyman** 

Part Time Laborer / Clerk

Oak Ridge, TN Summer 2021

- Multi-tasked by answering a 3-line phone system that averaged 20 calls per hour while serving walk-in customers and scheduling appointments
- Installed lights, fans and other light duty electrical appliances for customers

#### **ORGANIZATIONS and CAMPUS LEADERSHIP:**

Kappa Sigma Member Cookeville, TN

Used teamwork, collaboration and event planning skills by volunteering for the member drive that culminated in a 3% increase in membership over previous year.

Good mention of

Tennessee Technological University

PURPLE Career Readiness Certification

Volunteer section looks a

lot like a job

Fall 2023

Cookeville, competencies

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:** 

Habitat for Humanity

<u>Volunteer Laborer</u>

Various Cities

Summers 2021-Present

 Utilized team and problem solving skills by assisting in the construction of multiple housing projects mostly focusing on light duty electrical installations.

**COMPUTER and SOFTWARE SKILLS:** C++, Java, Some Python, ADOBE, Google Docs, InDesign

his header is super clean nd easy to read Entry-level resume minimum experience

#### **Patty Crenshaw**

Add: Your linked in profile if you have one.

931-840-1215

1250 Willow Avenue Cookeville, TN 38505

www.linkedin.com/in/PC

pcrenshaw@tntech.edu

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

Clearly stated objective, what you want and when!

To obtain an internship beginning in June 2024 in a computer science related area preferably in a cyber or data security area.

#### **EDUCATION:**

**Tennessee Technological University** 

Bachelor of Science / Computer Science Minor / Criminology Freshman status Education stresses college first, then degree type then major Cookeville, TN December 2026 GPA: 3.5 Set up right justification and put cities and dates here

**COMPUTER and SOFTWARE SKILLS:** Some C++, **A**DOBE, Google Docs, InDesign, Built 3 gaming computers from individual parts.

#### **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

Chick-fil-A

Work comes next in REVERSE chronological order. Most RECENT first

Oak Ridge, TN Summers 2021-22

Cashier

- Multi-tasked by operating cash register while monitoring customer orders for accuracy
- Kept counter clean and point of purchase displays visible
- Attended and contributed to team and management meetings
- Consistently met sales and customer service goals

#### **Bob's Putt-Putt and Games**

Harriman, TN

<u>Customer Service</u>

Summer 2020

- Operated cash register and accepted cash and credit transactions
- Informed customers of specials and rates
- Assisted with large parties and catered events.

Clubs, groups or professional orgs comes next. Written like a job

#### **ORGANIZATIONS and CAMPUS LEADERSHIP:**

Kappa Sigma

2023

<u>Member</u>

• Used teamwork, collaboration and event planning skills by volunteering for the membership drive that culminated in a 3% increase in membership over previous year.

Women in Cybersecurity

Cookeville, TN

Cookeville, TN

Student Member

2023-Present

#### **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:**

**Habitat for Humanity** 

**Various Cities** 

<u>Volunteer Carpenter</u>

Summers 2021-Present

 Utilized team and problem solving skills by assisting in the construction of multiple housing projects mostly focusing on framing and finish carpentry.

## ADDITIONAL RESUME TIPS

Example: Instead of saying "made presentations". Say "Utilized excellent presentation skills by incorporating data/graphs generated through Microsoft EXCEL to improve communication."

#### Possible phrases or sentence ideas:

Designed a presentation that leveraged digital technology and oral presentation skills

Worked in a cross cultural environment of four international students to design a prototype

Collaborated in a team of engineers that used critical thinking and conflict resolution skills

Direct Method

Troubleshoot problems by using critical thinking, digital technology and listening skills

Showed leadership skills by volunteering to lead a team of students to examine a campus related issue.

Indirect method

Worked an entire summer internship with zero late days and absenteeism (work ethic)

Used Microsoft Access and Excel to design reports for increased clarity and usability (digital tech skills)

Worked in a 4 student marketing team that presented to student government proposing new parking guidelines (oral and written communication skills)

#### Words:

Engineered, designed, collaborated, team, researched, troubleshoot, created, built, cross-functional team, taught, supervised, trained, oversight, crafted, monitored, analyzed, led, demonstrated, sold, managed, marketed, assisted, participated, volunteered, responded

Use words and phrases that mimic the words and phrases from your profession. The more language you use that is familiar to the employer, the more comfortable they will be with you as a candidate.

### TIPS FOR EXPERIENCED CANDIDATES

Graduates with five or more years in their career field will move away from the one-page resume with an objective to a two-page resume with a career profile or summary. A resume should never exceed two pages, no matter how many years of experience you may have. The experienced candidate will be 'selling' their experience versus their education. Thus, the education section of the resume will follow the professional experience category on the resume.

A career profile provides a quick summary of who you are as a professional. This is not a lengthy paragraph but is short and to the point. The idea is to gain an employer's interest in this short snapshot of you, the business professional.

## USE ACTION VERBS TO SHOW ACCOMPLISHMENT WITHIN YOUR RESUME

The following is a list of strong verbs that you may want to use in your resume. These words are actionoriented and represent skills areas beneficial to the prospective employer.

accelerated accomplished achieved adapted adjusted advocated allocated analyzed arranged assembled assessed audited balanced briefed budaeted built calculated catalogued charted checked clarified classified coached coded collaborated compared compiled completed composed computed conceptualized conducted consolidated consulted contributed converted coordinated correlated counselled created critiqued customized deduced

defined

delegated delivered demonstrated designated designed determined developed devised diaitized directed disbursed discovered dispatched distinguished distributed diversified documented drafted earned eased edited educated elicited eliminated employed empowered enabled encouraged endorsed enforced engineered enhanced enlarged enlisted enumerated envisioned established estimated evaluated examined executed exhibited

expanded

expedited

experimented explained explored extracted extrapolated fabricated facilitated fashioned forecasted formulated founded gathered generated graded auided handled hired identified illustrated implemented improved improvised increased indexed individualized influenced informed initiated innovated inspected inspired installed instituted instructed integrated interpreted interviewed introduced invented investigated involved judged iustified

lectured led leveraged licensed lightened linked located maintained managed manufactured marketed mastered measured mediated mentored modeled moderated modified monitored motivated navigated negotiated observed obtained operated ordered organized overhauled oversaw participated partnered performed persuaded planned predicted prepared presented printed prioritized processed procured produced programmed

proofread proposed proved provided publicized purchased queried raised realized recommended reconciled recorded recruited rectified reduced referred refined regarded regulated rehabilitated reinforced rejuvenated related relieved remedied remodeled reorganized repaired reported represented researched resolved restored revamped reviewed revitalized saved scheduled screened selected served shaped simulated sketched

solved spearheaded specialized spoke standardized strategized streamlined strengthened structured submitted suggested summarized supervised supplemented supported surpassed surveyed sustained synthesized systematized tabulated tailored taught tested traced tracked trained transacted transferred transformed translated tutored uncovered unified updated upgraded utilized validated valued verified visualized volunteered worked wrote

projected

launched

### CREATE A REFERENCE LIST

It is important to identify three to four professional references before you begin the application process. Professional references are individuals who have the ability to speak (in a positive manner!) about your work ethic. Appropriate references include professors or previous supervisors. Make sure that the reference: 1) knows you and your work ethic; 2) will say positive things regarding your work history, skills, knowledge and abilities; and 3) you have ASKED their permission to be listed as a reference.

If the individual says they will be a reference, give them an idea of the companies who may be calling and which position(s) you are considering. In addition, it is a good idea to let the reference know what skills the employer is seeking so that the reference has the opportunity to speak favorably about those skills to the employer.

### REFERENCES AND YOUR RESUME

In the past, professionals included their references on their resume. Today, references are NOT included on the resume. Simply have your reference information listed on a separate sheet of paper ready to give to an employer when they request it. Bring your reference sheet to the interview in case the employer requests the information at that time.

# Information to Include:



#### George B. Student

References

#### John Q. Smith

VP Engineering
Domtar Automotive
1515 TTU Drive
Cookeville, TN 38505
931-372-3232
johngsmith@tntech.eagles.com

#### **Martha Stuart**

Sales Supervisor
V-tech
1515 N. George St.
McMinnville, TN 38505
931-372-3232
marthas@vtech.eagles.com

#### **Dr. Joann Johns**

Professor of Engineering
Tennessee Technological University
Box 5021
Cookeville, TN 38501
931-372-3104
jj@tntech.com

## COMPOSE PROFESSIONAL COVER LETTERS

A cover letter, when asked for, accompanies your resume. It should market your qualifications and communicate your skills, accomplishments and potential to the employer. It should also highlight experiences most relevant to the job/employer. It is not a repeat of your resume but, rather, a short introduction of you that captures an employer's interest to encourage them to read your resume.

Your Name Your Address City, State Zip Code

Date

Contact's Name Title Company Name Address City, State Zip Code

Dear Mr./Ms. (Contact's Last name):

Your opening paragraph should arouse interest on the part of the reader. Tell why you are writing the letter.

Your middle paragraph should create desire. Give details of your background that will show the reader why you should be considered as a candidate. Be as specific as possible about how your skills match up with the job for which you are applying. Consult the job description for this portion of the letter. Refer the reader to your general qualifications on your enclosed resume or other material.

Provide information to show your specific interest in this company.

In your closing paragraph, ask for action. A positive request is harder to ignore than a vague hope.

Sincerely,

Your Handwritten Signature

Your typed name

George B. Student 5021 University Road Cookeville, TN 38505

April 1, 2023

Mr. Michael Alexander Director of Human Resources ABC Retailing 123 Main Street Townsville, IN 55555

Dear Mr. Alexander

I am applying for the *Web Developer* position that was advertised with Tennessee Tech University's Career Center this week.

Your position requires skills in various types of programming and software used in web development. My academic program in computer studies emphasized C, C++, Visual Basic and SQL. In addition, I have extensive experience in using several web development software packages, including Adobe Illustrator. My experience as a department computer consultant gave me exposure to both PC and Mac platforms. Additionally, I worked as a summer intern in computing operations at the Herald Citizen. My enclosed resume provides more details on my qualifications.

My background and career goals match your job requirements well. I am confident that I can make a strong contribution to ABC company, which has an excellent reputation in the financial technology industry. I welcome the opportunity to discuss my qualifications with you in greater detail. You may reach me at 931-372-3232 or gbstudent@gmail.com.

Thank you, and I look forward to speaking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

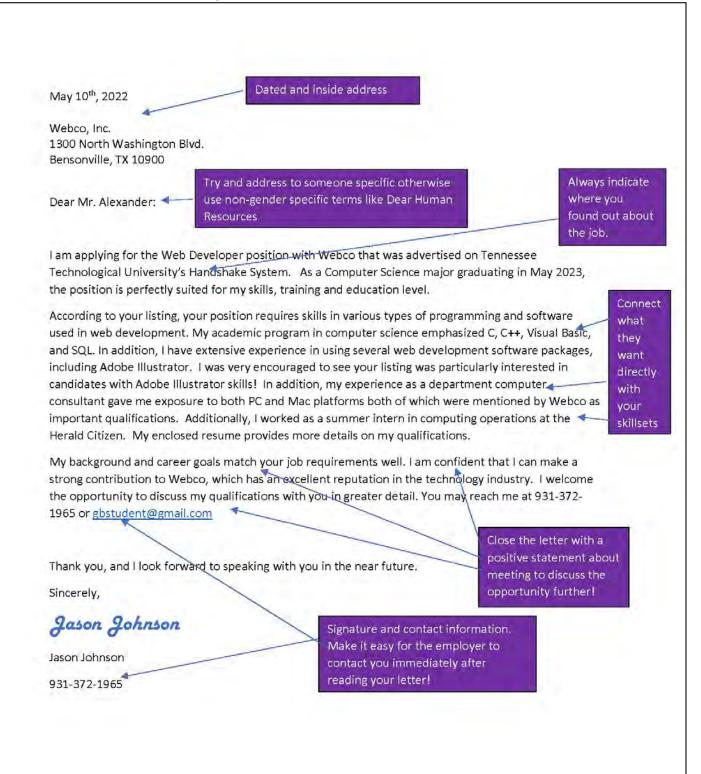
George B. Student

George B. Student

#### TIPS FOR PREPARING YOUR COVER LETTER:

- Leave 1" margins on all sides
- Use SPELLCHECK
- Always enclose a cover letter when mailing your resume or applying online
- Your cover letter should be brief, usually one page
- Always address your cover letter to a real person when possible
- If not possible use Dear Human Resources, Dear Advertiser or Dear Employer
- You may adapt your cover letter to accompany your resume via email, follow the same guidelines

### **Example of a Professional Cover Letter**





## THANK YOU LETTER

A thank you letter or note should be sent after every interview. This is your last chance to make a great impression before an employer decides whether to extend you a job offer. While handwritten thank you notes can be viewed as more personal, they may require mailing. Employers often make a hiring decision within 24 hours, so you may consider a thank you email instead to ensure the thank you arrives in time to be to your benefit.

Dear Mr./Ms. (Interviewer's last name):

In the first paragraph, state when and where you had your interview and thank the interviewer for his or her time. Reaffirm your interest in the organization.

In the second paragraph, mention something that particularly appeals to you about working for them and reinforce a point or two in support of your application.

If, after the interview, you thought of something you wish you had said, you can address it in the third paragraph of the letter. You can also restate your understanding of the next steps in the hiring process.

In the last paragraph, thank the employer for considering your application and ask for further communication.

Sincerely,

Your Handwritten Signature

Your typed name

Dear Ms. Chastain:

Thank you for meeting with me on Thursday, August 8, to discuss the position of copywriter at Modern Advertising, Inc. I was quite impressed with the enthusiasm you displayed for your company's future and the helpfulness of your office personnel. Learning about Modern's present media campaign for the Pennsylvania Sausage Company was exciting and demonstrated your creative approach to advertising. Modern Advertising is a company with which I want to be associated.

Your description of the special qualifications needed for this position was especially interesting. My ability to work under pressure and meet tight deadlines has already been proven in the advertising position I held with the Slippery Rock Rocket. As I stated at our meeting, I enjoyed the challenge of a competitive environment in which success was based on achievement. Since our meeting I have received the College Reporter's Award for an article of mine published in the Rocket. This is my first national award, and I am quite encouraged by this approval of my work.

Thank you again for considering me for the position of copywriter. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

George B. Student

George B. Student





## NETWORK: TAP INTO THE HIDDEN JOB MARKET

#### What is Networking?

Networking means using personal and professional contacts to help you become aware of positions that may be open within a variety of organizations. The people in your network may be able to refer you to organizations that are currently hiring or even help you to get interviews or actual job offers.

#### Who's in Your Network?

As a college student, you may think that you have no contacts who can help, but everyone you know has the potential to be a useful contact in your job search. Be inclusive when you decide who is a member of your network!

#### Consider starting with:

- Relatives, friends, acquaintances, classmates or alumni from your university and teammates
- Former teachers and faculty
- Supervisors and co-workers
- Colleagues from professional organizations and religious groups

#### Develop a Tracking System

Develop a method to track each phone call, letter, email, interview and follow-up.

#### Be Professional

When speaking to a contact to whom you have been referred, mention the name of the person who referred you early in the conversation. Be professional and courteous. Most people are willing to share information because they like to help others and/or they want to stay "well-connected."

#### Return the Favor

Remember that networking is a two-way street. You are developing a network of people to help you, and you should expect to return the favor.

You might do the following:

- Send an article on a topic of mutual interest.
- Offer to treat them to lunch.
- Send a simple thank you note to individuals who have been particularly helpful. When your job search is concluded, let them know you have obtained a position.



## LEVERAGE SOCIAL MEDIA TO NETWORK AND CREATE A PROFESSIONAL ONLINE PRESENCE



#### LinkedIn

Dubbed the 'professional' social networking site, LinkedIn lets users set up a profile that focuses on work experience and skills. Details include current employment, past jobs, special skills and projects and professional recommendations. The site fosters networking through 'connections.' Members link up by asking co-workers and friends to join their professional network. Once a connection is established, users can view their colleague's profile and browse their connections to find other professional networks to join.



#### **Facebook**

Designed to keep you connected with your friends, Facebook may not be the best platform for providing you with new job opportunities. You can bet that employers will be checking you out on Facebook to see what kind of online 'face' you present to others. Check your wall and photos for anything that might negatively impact a first impression. Also, search Facebook for employers and like the pages of organizations for which you are interested in working to follow company updates.



#### X

Sometimes it's great to be a follower. X allows you to receive quick information about a topic, interest, or what's going on at a company. Create a X account and search for interest areas and companies to follow.

## RESEARCH EMPLOYERS OF INTEREST

Discover employers that regularly hire those in your chosen career field. Prepare for interviews and gain a competitive edge over the competition.

#### What Do You Need to Know About an Employer?

At a minimum, make sure that you are familiar with the following aspects of an employer:

- Name, location(s), years in operation, year established
- Product lines and/or services
- Parent company and/or subsidiaries
- Financial picture of organization, assets, stock picture, recent mergers
- Unique initiatives that may set an employer apart from others in a positive way
- Major competitors
- Growth history
- Career possibilities

#### WHERE CAN YOU FIND INFORMATION ABOUT AN EMPLOYER?

#### Career Guide

This Career Guide is an excellent resource for you to research organizations that are actively recruiting Tennessee Tech students and alumni! Take time to review the advertisements that these recruiters have placed in your Career Guide, as well as the list of recruiting employers at the end of the Career Guide.

#### The Internet

There are numerous places on the Internet that contain employer information. Begin with the company's own website. Sites such as Glassdoor are also good resources. Try www.tntech.edu/career/students/links.php

#### **Online Directories**

These resources may provide information about an organization's products or services, number of employees, principal executives and history.

- Handshake connects you with organizations who conduct on-campus interviews, attend career fairs and post jobs at Tennessee Tech.
- Dun & Bradstreet Business Information Reports: www.dnb.com
- Moody's Manual: www.moodys.com
- ReferenceUSA: www.referenceusa.com

## CHOOSE THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU

There are a number of factors to consider when determining whether you accept a position. While salary is an important factor, be sure you weigh your starting salary against the salary potential of the position and against the cost of living in the geographical area where you plan to live. In addition, consider these factors:

#### Job/Employer-Related Factors

- Potential for career advancement
- Work schedule (traditional 8 a.m. 5 p.m. or flexible hours)
- Bonus or commission plans
- Benefits such as profit sharing, 401K, insurance, etc.
- Travel
- Reputation and stability of employer
- Size of employer, type of employer

#### Geographic/Lifestyle Factors

- Geographic location
- Climate
- Social life for singles, couples or family
- Commute to work
- · Availability of suitable housing
- Size and type of community (suburban, metropolitan, rural)

#### **Share News of Your Success**

Once you accept a job offer, use your Handshake account to notify us. This lets us know you have accepted employment and are no longer seeking career opportunities at this time. Remember as a Tennessee Tech alumnus, you have access to Center for Career Development services and resources throughout your career.

#### Make the Most of Your New Opportunity

Whether in your first professional job as a new graduate or a part-time on-campus job while you're still in school, you must get started on the right foot to ensure success. The following tips can help you to excel and avoid some of the common pitfalls of being the "new kid on the block."

- Be a dependable employee.
- Seek out new challenges and do more than is expected.
- Establish mutually agreed upon goals with your supervisors.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions and seek help when needed.
- Learn the corporate culture of your organization and be willing to adapt.
- Develop and utilize strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Cultivate positive working relationships with your coworkers.
- Don't be afraid to contribute new ideas to a project.
- Seek out mentors who can be a source of support during challenging times.



## MAKE A CAREER FAIR WORK FOR YOU

Career Fairs are an important way to make in-person contact with organizations already of interest to you and apply to other companies you may discover at the fair. Here are some tips to make career fairs work for you.

#### LEARN WHO'S COMING AHEAD OF TIME

- You can see the list of companies that have registered with your Handshake account.
- Narrow the list of participating employers by using the filter on majors. This will eliminate companies that are not seeking students with your major at this time. You can also filter by internship, full-time job and cooperative education.

#### **DEVELOP A WINNING ONE-MINUTE COMMERCIAL**

- To make a great first impression when meeting recruiters, develop a winning elevator pitch. This commercial is a verbal summary of your background, achievements and career interests.
- Politely introduce yourself (name, major, when you graduate) remember to smile.
- Demonstrate your knowledge of the company and the industry.
- Explain what you can offer by highlighting your experiences and skills (previous internships, etc.).
- Express your interest in learning more about the company by asking a direct question.

#### DRESS THE PART

• The first impression you create is critical, so dress in conservative, professionally tailored, well-pressed clothing. How you look will play a big part in determining employer interest.





#### ARRIVE EARLY AND PLAN TO STAY LATE

- Make sure the employer knows that they are #1 on your list.
- Then follow through with other employers that you like.
- Use the balance of the day to visit other organizations that are less familiar but still interesting.

#### TAKE THE RIGHT THINGS WITH YOU

- Bring enough resumes to circulate, an attractive pen and a pad of paper in a professional padfolio.
- Bring a list of references as well just in case someone asks for them. Always remember that you need to tell your references that they are on your list and that they may be contacted by employers.

#### KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO ASK

- Try to have one or two questions in mind for each employer.
- The questions should reflect the research you have done on the employer and your interest.

#### LEARN WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT

- While recruiters enjoy getting to know you at career fairs, some companies will require you to apply online rather than taking your resume in person. Try not to get frustrated – the company's recruiters had the chance to meet you and discuss your qualifications. They will remember you when they review your application.
- As you leave each employer, learn what happens next and what, if anything, you should do to advance your candidacy.

#### **FOLLOW-UP**

• If there is any follow-up work necessary in the form of thank-you letters, reference letters, or other materials to be sent, be sure to complete it within 24 hours.



## DRESS PROFESSIONALLY TO MAKE A GREAT FIRST IMPRESSION

The way you dress has an effect on the company or interviewer's initial impression of you. Follow the guidelines below for dressing for an interview.

#### Tips for Making a Great First Impression

- A suit, in black, navy or gray, is a safe choice. Khaki, twill, or cotton pants or skirts may also be suitable.
- Suit jackets, solid or patterned, may be paired with appropriate pants mentioned above.
- Clothing should fit well and be cleaned and pressed.
- Dress shirts and tops should not have prominent brand logos. Do not wear polos with embroidered business logos.
- Avoid "flashy" apparel and jewelry.
- Closed-top dress shoes should be polished and in good condition without any scuff marks. No sneakers or open-toed shoes.
- Hair and facial hair should be neatly styled, nails cleaned, and makeup natural-style, if used. Avoid cologne, perfume or body sprays.
- Turn off your cell phone and place it in your pants or jacket pocket.

#### **Have Your Documents Handy**

Carry a padfolio with your questions written in advance. It is a good idea to include additional copies of your resume, reference list and a quality pen.

#### **Keep It Simple**

Do not bring gum, tablets, earbuds, coffee or soda into your interview. Avoid having keys or coins in your pocket so they do not rattle when you walk in or while sitting. Do not bring a backpack; however, if you must bring a backpack, keep it light, clean and orderly so it may be placed to the side.

#### **Arrive 10 Minutes Early**

It is critical that you arrive on time to an interview. Arriving late to an interview not only wastes the interviewer's time, but also sends the message that you are not serious about your job search or about keeping commitments. Do not arrive too early – this puts undue pressure on an interviewer to begin your interview ahead of schedule.

### **ACE THE INTERVIEW**

An interview is required for 99% of the job opportunities available. Therefore, effective interviewing skills are a must! Others will be competing with you to obtain the same position. It is critical to not only convince an employer that you can do the job, but that you can do the job better than the other candidates competing for the same position. Here are the steps you can take before, during and after an interview to help place you ahead of the competition and ease your fears about interviewing.

#### UNDERSTAND WHAT EMPLOYERS LOOK FOR IN FUTURE EMPLOYEES:

#### Interview Preparation/Knowledge of Employer:

• Are you knowledgeable about the employer and the industry?

#### Self-Confidence/Verbal Communication Skills:

• Do you have the ability to listen effectively, verbalize your thoughts clearly and express yourself confidently?

#### Goals/Motivation:

- Do you demonstrate an interest in the employer and a desire to work hard and succeed?
- Are you a good fit with the company's overall workplace culture?

#### Qualifications:

• Can you relate your academic program, skills gained through prior work or internship experience to the needs of an employer?

#### Research the Employer:

• It is important that you research an employer so you can relate your abilities to the needs of the employer. By doing your homework, you will show an employer that you are interested in the employer and the position.

#### Be Prepared to Answer and Ask Questions:

• Interviewing.com allows you to conduct a practice interview using a webcam to enhance your job interviewing skills and develop an edge over the competition. See the website for more information.

#### **Need More Advice?**

Check out Career Spots advice videos for more tips! www.tntech.edu/career/students/advice-videos.php



### VIRTUAL INTERVIEW GUIDE

Students preparing to meet employers online will definitely want to practice their interview skills virtually. Researching the employer and preparing to answer interview questions remain similar to face-to-face interviews. Students should still practice their introduction or elevator speech. However, preparing for a virtual interview is very different. Whatever you are interviewing for, familiarize yourself with being on camera.

- Think about your environment. You'll want to experiment with what will be "in the frame" that the employer will see when you connect with them. The background should be appealing and appear level as if you were face to face with the employer. You shouldn't be looking down or up to the employer. Be careful of being too close or too far from the camera. Think head and shoulders is about right.
- 2 Still dress for success! You'll want to honor the occasion of the interview by wearing business professional clothing. The goal during any type of interview is to project the best professional image possible.
- Practice making eye contact by looking into the camera. Be aware of distracting movements by focusing on sitting up straight and keep potential distractions at a minimum (your smart phone, animals, music or any other potential noise interruptions).
- Be aware of lighting. Bright background lights or glare from a window can cast unfavorable light making you hard for the employer to see. Try and solve those issues ahead of time by doing number 5 below.
- Test your technology. Along with lighting and background, make sure your camera and sound are working properly ahead of your scheduled interview.
- Follow-up. Similar to face-to-face interviews, you'll want to be sure to get the employers name, title and contact information so you can follow-up with an appropriate note of thanks and appreciation for the opportunity to interview.

#### Do:

- Be enthusiastic and courteous.
- Be aware of your non-verbal behavior such as eye contact, handshake and hand gestures.
- Convey interest and knowledge in the position and company.
- Avoid the use of non-sentences such as umm, uh, ya know, well and yeah.
- Always present the best of your qualifications, including awards, accomplishments and results.
- Listen to the questions carefully and give clear, concise and thoughtful answers.
- At the close of the interview, establish a date for your next communication.

#### Don't:

- Address the interviewer by his/her first name unless invited to do so.
- Let the employer's casual approach fool you, maintain a professional image.
- Dominate the interview or appear arrogant.
- Criticize yourself or discuss your personal problems.
- Speak or act in a nervous manner.
- Ask questions that the interviewer has already answered.
- Interrupt when the interviewer is talking.
- Bring up negative information about past jobs, co-workers or former employers.

#### www.tntech.edu/career/students/

Interviewing.com provides you the ability to practice on-camera interviewing while being asked real world interview questions. Webcam and sound are necessary. Try it today!





# INTERVIEW QUESTIONS TO ASK AND ANTICIPATE

### To Ask:

- Please describe a typical day on the job.
- What do you see as the greatest challenge in this position?
- What personal qualities, skills, or experience would help someone do well in this position?
- What are the company's plans for future growth?
- How do you view this organization as a place to work?
- What are the typical career paths? What are realistic timeframes for advancement?
- How are employees evaluated and promoted?
- How much contact and exposure to management would I have?
- What type of training program do you offer new employees?
- How much freedom and responsibility is given to new employees?
- Can you explain the performance review process?
- What is the retention rate of people in this position?
- What opportunities exist for professional growth and development?
- What makes your organization different from your competitors?
- Are co-op, internship, or summer positions available?

### To Anticipate:

- Tell me about yourself?
- What are your short-term and long- term career goals and how do you plan to achieve them?
- What are the most important rewards you expect in your career?
- What do you consider to be your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
- How has your college experience prepared you for a career?
- What motivates you to put forth your greatest effort?
- In what ways do you think you can contribute to our organization?
- What do you know about our organization?
- Why do you want to obtain a position at our organization?
- Why did you choose the career for which you are preparing?
- Why should I hire you?
- What qualifications do you have that make you think you will be successful?
- What do you REALLY want to do in life?
- What do you think it takes to be successful in an organization like ours?
- How would you define the word "success"?
- What qualities should a successful manager possess?
- Do you have a geographical preference? Are you willing to relocate?



# BEHAVIORAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Behavioral interviews are very probing in nature and based on the concept of "predictable future behavior." In other words, what you have done in the past strongly suggests what you will do in the future. Many employers now use this method for interviewing candidates.

The **STAR(L)** method to answer behavioral interview questions:

**S**ituation: Describe the event or situation. This provides context for the interviewer.

**T**ask: Explain the task or project you were required to complete.

**A**ction: Describe specific actions, including troubleshooting issues, you took to complete the task.

Result: Explain the end result. Was your project successful? How do you know? If it was not, what did

you learn from it that you can apply to future projects?

**L**earned: Mention what you learned from the STAR experience.

## Sample Behavioral Interview Questions

- How have you demonstrated initiative?
- How have you motivated yourself to complete an assignment or task that you did not want to do?
- Think about a difficult boss, professorvor other person. What made him or her difficult? How did you successfully interact with this person?
- Think about a complex project or assignment you have been given. What approach did you take to complete it?
- Tell me about the riskiest decision that you have made.
- Can you tell me about an occasion where you needed to work with a group to get a job done?
- Describe when you or a group that you were a part of were in danger of missing a deadline.
   What did you do?
- Tell me about a time when you worked with a person who did things very differently from you.
   How did you get the job done?
- Describe your three greatest accomplishments to date.
- Tell me about a situation when you had to learn something new in a short time.
   How did you proceed?

- Tell me about a challenge that you successfully met.
- Walk me through a situation where you had to do research and analyze the results for one of your classes.
- What leadership positions have you held?
   Describe your leadership style.
- Have you generated any new ideas or suggestions while at school or at work?
- Summarize a situation where you successfully persuaded others to do something or to see your point of view.
- Give an example of when your persistence had the biggest payoff.
- Describe a situation where class assignments and work or personal activities conflicted. How did you prioritize? How did you manage your time? What was the outcome?
- How have you most constructively dealt with disappointment and turned it into a learning experience?
- Describe a situation in which you effectively developed a solution to a problem by combining different perspectives or approaches.

## **EMPLOYERS RECRUITING AT** TENNESSEE TECH

The employers listed below participated in on-campus recruiting, networking sessions or career fairs over the last year. Green denotes Cooperative Education (Co-op) Employers.

1220 Exhibits, Inc.

21st Mortgage Corporation

620 Pelham Inc

Academy Sports+Outdoors

Acato Information Management, LLC

Ace Electric. Inc.

Adtran

Advanced Composites, Inc.

Advanced Testing Co., Inc.

Air Force Civilian Service

Allan Myers

AllianceBernstein

Altec Industries

Amentum

America's Home Place

Anderson County Schools

**APTIM** 

Agua-Chem

Arconic Corp

**ARCS** Aviation

Ardurra

Aristocrat Technologies, Inc.

Artics

ASSA ABLOY Opening Solutions

ATC Automation

Atlantic Coast Consulting, Inc.

Atmus Filtration Technologies

Automation nth

**Averitt Express** 

Aviagen, Inc.

Aviation and Missile Solutions, LLC.

**Axle Logistics** 

Bacon Farmer Workman Engineering & Testing, Inc.

**BAE Systems** 

**Baker Construction** 

Barge Civil Associates, LLC

Barge Design Solutions, Inc.

Barnhart Crane and Rigging

Barnhart Energy Company

Barrett Woodyard & Associates

**BASF** 

Bechtel

Bedford County Dept of Education

BELL Construction Company, LLC

Benesch

Bennett & Pless, Inc.

**Bevond New Horizons** 

**BL** Companies

Blackman High School

Blalock Companies

Bledsoe County Schools - TN

**Blount County Schools** 

BlueOval SK, LLC

Bohler

Bonitron Inc.

Bonnell Aluminum

Bowen Engineering Corporation

Bowman

Bowman Consulting Group

Bridgestone

Bridgestone Americas Manufacturing

Bristol Tennessee Essential Services

**Building & Earth Sciences** 

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BWX Technologies, Inc.

Cal-Maine Foods, Inc.

Camp Nakanawa for Girls, Inc.

Camp Timber Tops

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Cannon County Board of Education

Cardinal Glass Industries

Carroll Daniel Construction

Catalyst Design Group

Caterpillar Financial

Caterpillar Inc.

CDPC Operations Management

CDPC Sales Team

Ceco Concrete Construction

Centerstone

Centrus Energy

Cerris

CESO, Inc.



CGI

Chad Stewart & Associates, Inc.

**Charter Construction** 

Charter One

Chartwells Higher Education Dining Services

Chastain-Skillman, Inc.

Chattanooga Girls Ldrshp Academy Cheekwood Estate & Gardens

Chism Automation

Chromalox

Cintas Corporation
CIS Industries
Citizens Bank

City Brewing Company, LLC

City of Cookeville City of Knoxville, TN

City of La Vergne, Tennessee

City of Tuscaloosa

Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC) Clarksville-Montgomery County School System

Clayton Homes

Cleary Construction Inc Clinton City Schools Clyde York 4-H Center

CMC CMTA, Inc.

Collier Engineering Co. Inc.
Colliers Engineering & Design

Colortech

Commercial Vehicle Group (CVG)

Community Options, Inc.

Connico Inc.

Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC

**Consor Engineers** 

Constellium - Rolled Products Construction Enterprises, Inc.

Control Source Inc.

Cookeville Regional Medical Center

Cooper Steel Fabricators
Cornerstone Engineering, Inc.

Covenant Health

Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. (CMT)

Crossville, Inc.

Crunk Engineering LLC

**CSDG** 

CSR Engineering Inc CTI and Associates Cumberland County Board of Education

**Cumberland County Schools** 

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Cummins, Inc.

Danville VA Public Schools
DeKalb County High School
DeKalb County School District
DelMonaco Winery & Vineyards

Denham-Blythe

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Designed Conveyor Systems, LLC

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Dunkin' Duracell

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Dynetics

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Easton Corp.

EBZ SysTec, Inc

Electric Power Research Institute
Emerald Youth Foundation

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**Enable Resource Group** 

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EnerNex

**Enfinity Engineering** 

Engineering Consulting Services (ECS)

Engineering Solutions Enterprise Mobility Envision Advantage, LLC

**Envision AESC** 

**EOSYS** 

Erlanger Health ERMCO-ECI

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First United Methodist Church - Cookeville, TN

Flowserve Corporation Ford Motor Company Forsyth County Schools

**FOXPE** 

Franklin County School System Franklin Engineering Group Franklin Special School District

Fresenius Medical Care North America

Furman University Fusion Tools, Inc.

Gallatin Department of Electricity

**Garney Construction** 

Garver

Garza EMC, LLC

**Gate Precast Company** 

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Jackson Energy Authority

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JR Butler

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K&S Engineering, PLLC

Katy ISD

KCI Technologies, Inc. Keller North America, Inc.

Kimley-Horn

Kingsport City Schools

KIPP Nashville

Kirby Building Systems Knox County Schools Knoxville Utilities Board

Kohl's Komatsu

L. I. Smith & Associates, Inc.

Lamb Weston

Landscape Workshop

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**LANXESS Corporation** 

Lawrence Livermore National Lab

LDA Engineering
LEAD Public Schools

Lebanon Special School District

Leidos

LG Chem America Inc Lhoist North America

Lincoln Memorial University - Doctor of Occupational

Therapy

Lincoln Memorial University - Doctor of Physical Therapy

Lincoln Memorial University - School of Business

Lincoln Memorial University

- Knoxville Physician Assistant Program

Lithko Contracting

Little Monster, Inc.

LJA Engineering

LKQ Corporation

Lochinvar, LLC

Logan Aluminum

Longenecker & Associates

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Lose Design

Loudon County School

M2 Group, LLC.

Macon County Schools - TN Madison County School System

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Robertson County Schools

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Robins Air Force Base - STEM Civilians Robotic Technologies of Tennessee Rockdale County Public Schools

Rogers Group Inc.

Rutherford County Schools (TN)

S&ME, Inc

Saba University School of Medicine

SAIC

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Schnabel Engineering, Inc.

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Snap-on Incorporated

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Spring Automation

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STV

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Target
Tate Inc.

Tate Ornamental, Inc. Teijin Carbon America, Inc.

Tektronix

Tencarva Machinery Company

Tenet 3, LLC

Tenneco

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Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Tennessee Department of Transportation

Tennessee Farmers Cooperative Tennessee General Assembly TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL Tennessee State Government

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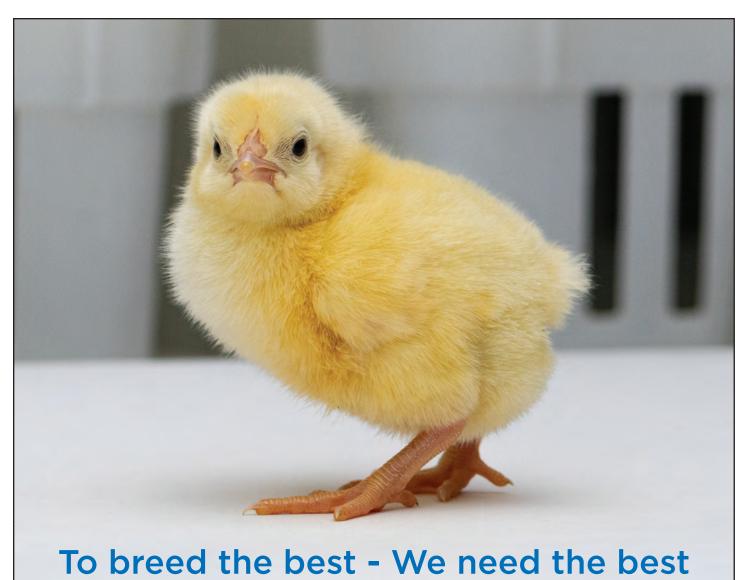
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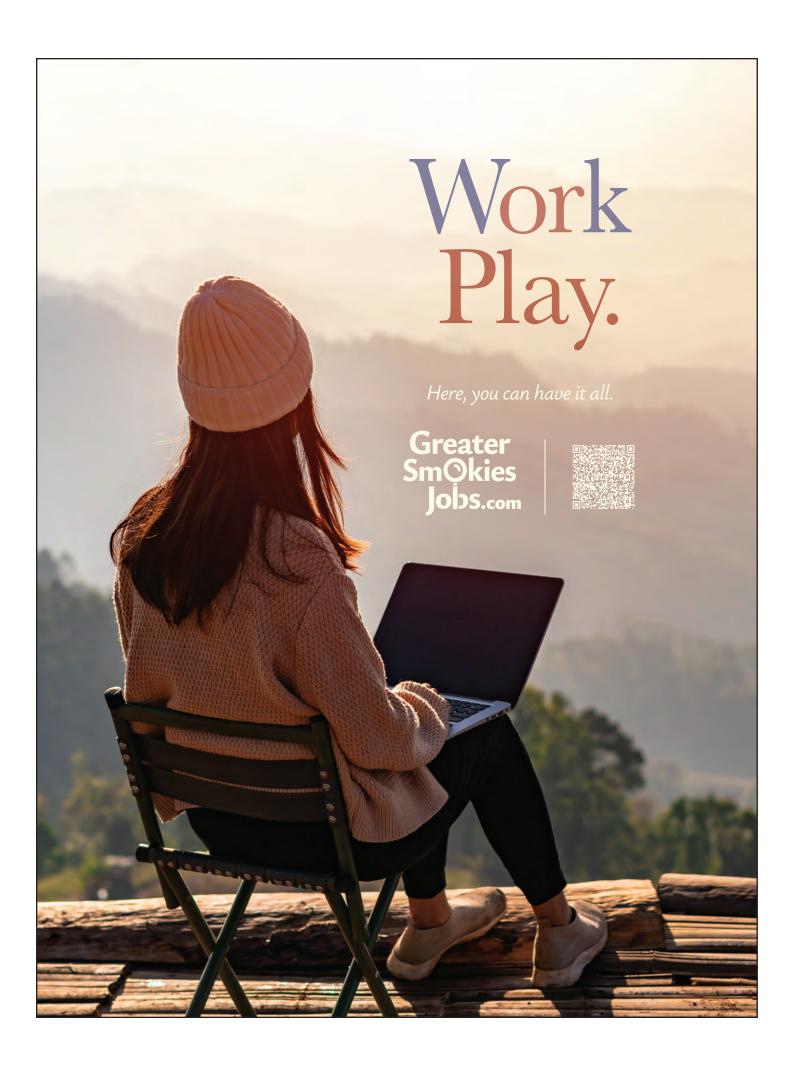




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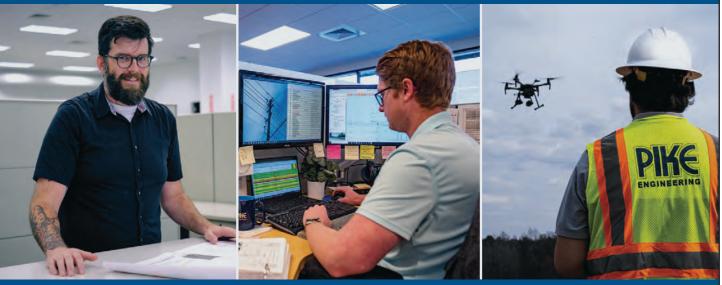


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- Test and Validation
- Computer Science / CSE
- Electrical
- Mechanical

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We create chemistry

**At BASF**, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. As the world's largest chemical company, we combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. The approximately 113,000 employees in the BASF Group, through science and innovation, enable our customers in nearly all sectors and in almost every country in the world to meet the current and future needs of society.

- Over 17,500 employees in North America
- BASF product Diofan 190D used in electrical systems for Apollo 11
- Hiring locally and supporting area non-profits



### Sparta products/uses:

We have hundreds of raw materials that are used to produce a variety of extruded performance polymers for a diverse customer base, Nylon 6, Nylon 6/6 and polyester colored specialty resins used for:

- Automotive: auto interior, mirror
  - And window housings
- Consumer and Industrial:

Power tool housings, furniture applications

- Power Distribution and Telecommunications: Electrical switches, wall plates
- Advanced color technology



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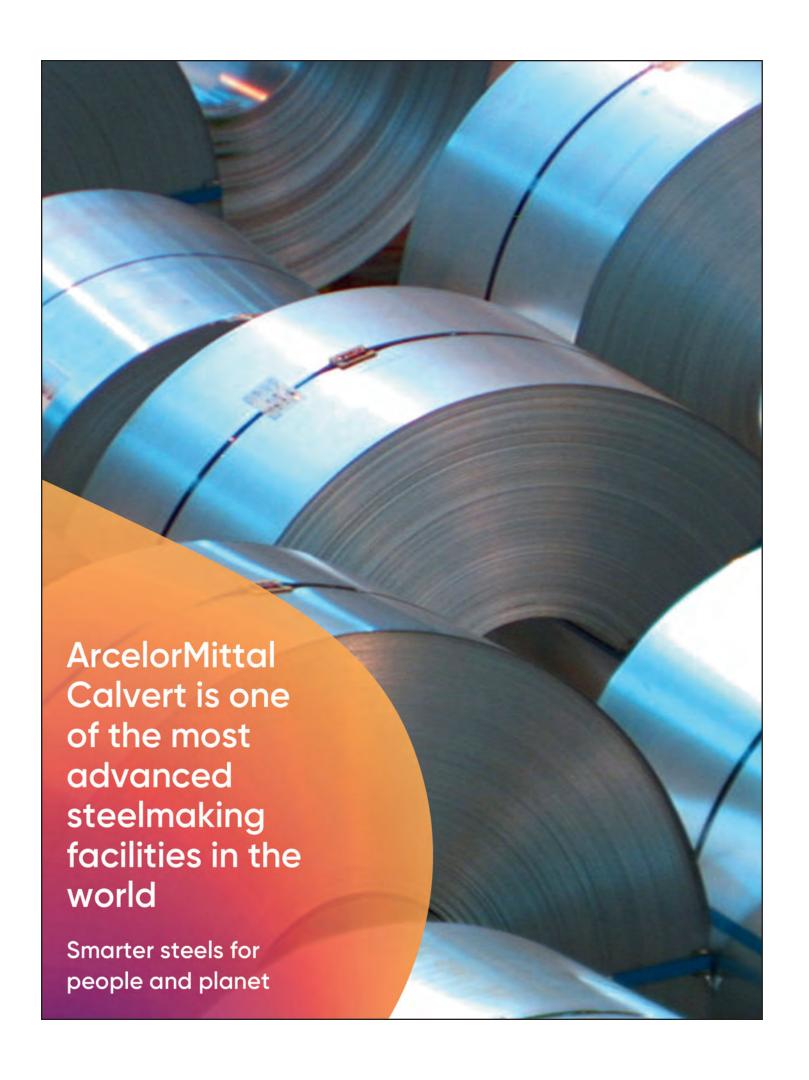
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# Innovations in Steel. Strengthened by People. Transforming Tomorrow.



We believe in the power of people and technology to drive progress. Our values—Safety, Sustainability, Quality, and Leadership—support everything we do.

Located in Calvert, Alabama, we produce 5.3 million tons of flat-rolled carbon steel annually for the North American market. Our 2,400-acre site features a river terminal, a cutting-edge steelmaking plant, a hot strip mill, a cold rolling mill, galvanizing and annealing lines, and a new non-grain-oriented electric steels (NOES) facility currently under construction.

We're more than a steel company—we're a community of innovators, committed to excellence, sustainability, and shared success.

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# Graduating? Join our team!

Do you enjoy using your technical knowledge to find solutions to help others? Would you like to work for a company which supports your personal and professional growth and is doing important things for our community?

### We'd love to hear from you!

Explore the career opportunities that Twin Lakes can offer you at **twinlakes.net/careers** or **scan the code** with your smartphone camera.





### **Technical Support Representative**

A Technical Support Representative provides what Twin Lakes provides best — exceptional customer service and technical expertise. On the phone, online chat, or via email, you'll work directly with our valued customers, walking them through their technical difficulties and finding solutions.



### **Network Technician**

A Network Technician analyzes, installs, configures, maintains, and repairs network infrastructure and application components. In addition, there is a wide variety of evaluation, maintenance, installation, and training tasks to ensure network performance meets company and user needs.



### **Plant Engineer**

A Plant Engineer works to ensure all Twin Lakes' physical networks are designed and constructed to meet customer demand in the most efficient manner within budget and time constraints. Their postion utilizes engineering best practices in planning and designing fiber network facilities, while working with other departments and plant personnel to perform tasks required to ensure the efficacy and accuracy of plant records.





We're looking for the next generation of healthcare leaders, innovators and caregivers.



## **Opportunities for new grads include:**

- · Nursing (all specialties, with mentorship programs)
- · Clinical roles in Imaging, Respiratory Therapy, and Lab Services, etc.
- · Business & Professional Services (Finance, Accounting, HR)
- · Information Technology & Data Support



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**Building Healthier Communities** 



### **Our vision:**

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