In the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, our Career Services staff help students land internships, jobs and other practical experiences that align with their professional goals. Each year, more than 2,500 organizations recruit highly qualified Illinois students and graduates to fill internships and entry-level jobs. Recruiters rank the University of Illinois as one of the very best places in the nation to find talent.

Imagine... 

• Interning at a large zoo and getting paid.
• Organizing a fundraiser to support cancer research.
• Trading millions of dollars of commodities.
• Bringing a new healthy food product to market.
• Stopping invasive species alongside world-renowned scientists.
• Working in Chicago for a large financial firm.

Preview careers.

Internships and other real-world experiences provide students firsthand knowledge of career opportunities in their field. Many students pursue three-month internships over summer break, and some choose to participate in six-month internships. Students are encouraged to considering gathering professional experiences related to their career goals prior to graduation.

More than 100 organizations attend the ACES & Bio-Sciences Career Fair held annually in the fall semester.
Secure a job before graduation.

An internship is an on-the-job interview, and the very best performers often receive offers of full-time employment at the conclusion of their internships. Nationally, more than 50 percent of interns are converted into entry-level full-time hires. Many ACES students enjoy their senior year without the added pressure of searching for a job. A list of companies that have hired recent graduates is available on the ACES Career Services website.

Develop a strong graduate school application.

ACES Career Services will help you secure relevant, practical experiences which will give you a more competitive application to graduate or professional school. These experiences enhance students’ knowledge about their chosen professions and reinforce their decisions to apply for graduate programs. A competitive graduate school application and a well-written personal statement are the result of making an informed decision to pursue an advanced degree.

Become a more engaged student.

After an internship, students often return to school with a renewed passion for their studies. A glimpse into the real world provides a connection from what is taught in the classroom to its application in practice. Students fully engaged in the learning process are more satisfied with their educational experience and feel better prepared for their pursuits upon graduation.

Eager to know more?

- Visit careerservices.aces.illinois.edu
- Call 217-244-4540
- Email Jennifer Neef, Director of ACES Career Services, at jneef@illinois.edu

Stephanie Diamond

Stephanie Diamond, a recent graduate of the College of ACES, said an internship with Newly Weds Foods in Chicago affirmed her decision to pursue a career in food science.

“I loved my internship experience,” she said. “It taught me a lot about how the food industry functions and how I function as a part of it. It really solidified my decision to work in the food industry and was confirmation for me that I chose the right major.”

Diamond said it’s important that education—both inside and outside of the classroom—do more than teach facts and figures.

“Our education needs to help us transition from being an observer in our industry to a protagonist,” she said. “My experience in the College of ACES has done exactly that.”