

# Create your own internship: A guide for first and second year students

## Did you know?

- ✓ Students with multiple internships are **2x more likely** to receive full-time job offers before graduation.
- ✓ Local and small business internships often offer **broader responsibilities** and **closer mentorship**.

Why Start Early?	What Is a “Self-Created Internship”?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students who intern early build confidence, skills, and stronger resumes.</li><li>• Many employers prefer juniors, but smaller companies and personal connections can open door earlier.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An internship you initiate through <i>networking</i>, not a formal job posting.</li><li>• Often with small businesses, startups, nonprofits, or family connections.</li><li>• Can be tailored to your interests and career goals.</li></ul>

## Student Spotlight: How One Fisher Student Made It Happen

*“I had previously worked at Orangetheory as a Sales Associate and really loved the community there. I reached out to my former manager to see if there might be an opportunity. From there, he created the internship position for me, which made the experience even more meaningful.”*

*During the internship, I learned how important relationship-building and customer engagement are to running a successful business. I also gained hands-on experience in marketing, sales operations, and event coordination, all of which helped me see how different parts of a business work together. One of the most valuable parts of the experience was being involved in the interviewing and hiring process for potential new hires. It gave me great insight into what companies look for when hiring, how candidates can stand out, and the importance of professionalism and communication throughout the process.”*

— Lila Pilkington, Class of 2028

## Steps to Create Your Own Internship

1. **Identify Your Network** | Think: family, neighbors, coaches, former employers, local businesses.
2. **Reach Out with Purpose** | Share what you’re hoping to learn and how you can contribute.
3. **Pitch the Idea** | Suggest a short-term project or role that aligns with your interests.
4. **Be Flexible** | Even unpaid or part-time roles can offer meaningful experience.
5. **Follow Up** | Stay professional and express gratitude — relationships matter!

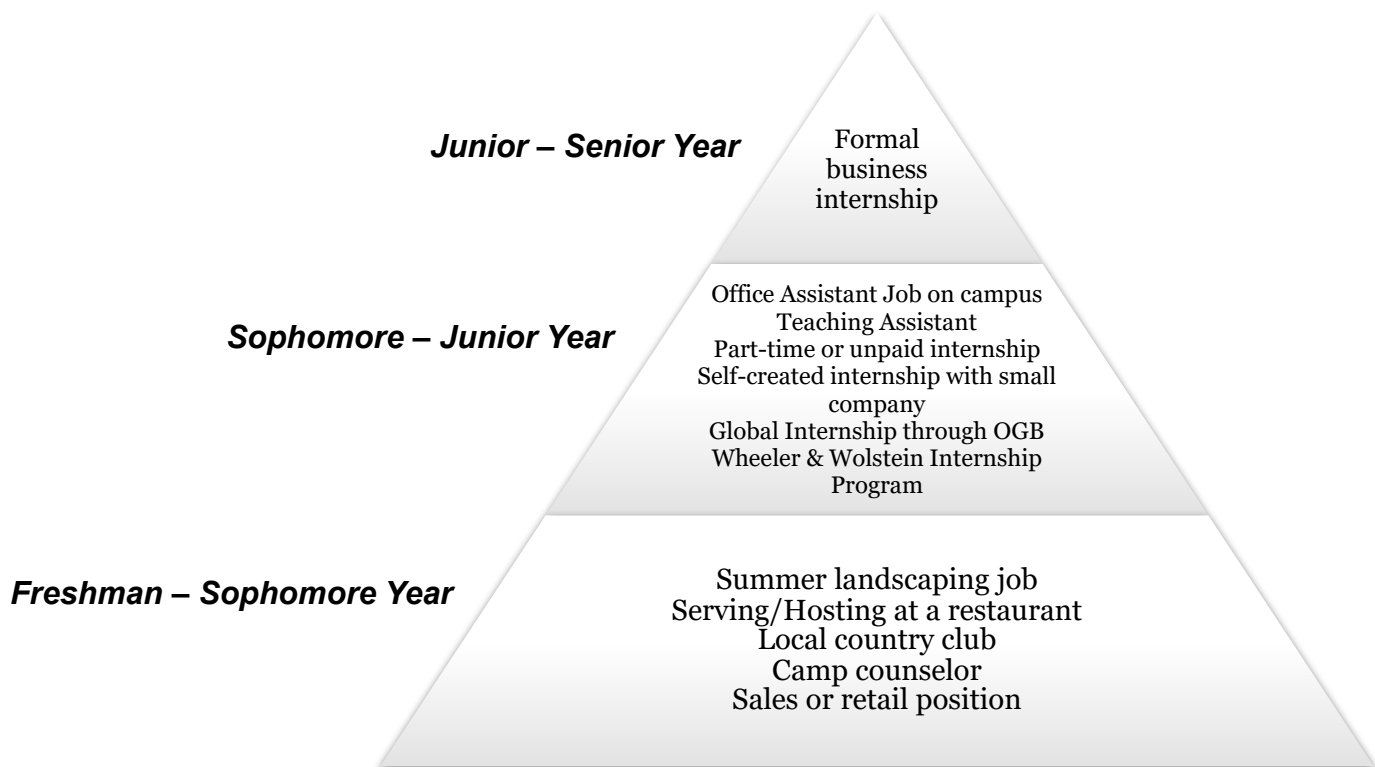
## Need Help?

Visit the Office of Career Management to brainstorm ideas and draft outreach messages with a Career Coach.

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## Student Work Experience Pyramid:

Start with small part-time jobs and customer service roles...anything to help you develop vital soft skills



*You need experience to GET more experience!*