

Steps for Career Fair Success

Career fairs or career expos are valuable, on-campus opportunities to **find, meet and network with hundreds of potential employers**. Every term, employers looking to fill positions come to campus. They aren't just looking for full-time hires; they are looking for interns, summer workers, volunteers and the opportunity to just meet you. It doesn't matter if you aren't looking for a job right now; come explore possibilities for your future and make relationships with organizations. Use Handshake to find career fair dates and lists of attending employers.

What to Expect

The day before the fair, the Career Development Center holds **speed mock interviews** to help you feel comfortable and prepared to meet employers.

At the expos you can expect hundreds of employers from various industries with tables offering information, job announcements and company giveaways.

Also, watch for field-specific sub-fairs and events for certain majors.

Don't wait until your last year to attend the fairs! Career fairs are beneficial for students of all years and majors.

Not in Oregon? Check if OSU offers a virtual employer panel, speed mock interviews or event at the time of the fair, or contact nearby universities to attend their career fairs. Many institutions open their fairs to non-students.

Steps for Career Fair Success

- 1. Stay in the loop on Handshake.** Know when and where career fairs and accompanying events are held.
- 2. Prepare your Résumé.** Use **Vmock** for a virtual résumé review in advance of the fair or come to Career Development Center drop-ins to work with a career assistant. Once your résumé is ready, print at least 10 copies to share with organizations of interest.
- 3. Do employer homework.** Research the employers planning to attend the fairs. Find companies or positions you are interested in so you can have informed conversations with them at the event. This will help you stand out from other candidates.
- 4. Know your audience.** Remember the importance of a first impression. Dress, prepare and present yourself for the position/organization you want.
- 5. Meet and greet.** Smile and offer a handshake to the recruiters. Be confident, but wait your turn to speak. Introduce yourself and ask well-informed questions. This is a conversation, not a pitch contest. Offer to leave your résumé with them and get their contact information.
- 6. Make a move.** Within 48 hours of the fair, send an email or call employers you made a connection with. Thank them for their time and reiterate what you had discussed at the fair. Make it personal and unique to them/their organization and try to set up a next step (company tour, informational interview, volunteering, application).

Tip

After chatting with employers, make notes on the back of their business card so you remember the details of your conversation. This will help you tailor your follow-up.