

## BECOME A GREAT CANDIDATE

Competition for jobs and internships can be fierce. In today's world, a degree alone is not enough to set yourself ahead of the pack of other applicants. Employers want candidates who have it all: good grades, community and campus involvement, and above all, experience. Follow the advice on this page to make sure you stand out.

**Get the grades.** While grades aren't everything, employers do prefer candidates with a 3.0 GPA or above. Your GPA can also be an important determinant in graduate school acceptance. So don't miss classes, study, do your homework, and should you need it, academic assistance is available through the [Kinkel Center](#).

**Get involved.** Aside from grades employers want to see candidates who have been involved on campus and in their fields. Join a group or club. It's a great way to build and demonstrate your leadership skills. There are many opportunities for you to get involved at Fontbonne –visit the [student activities site](#) for more details. You also may build leadership skills in your work place, in your community, and involvement in [team sports](#).

**Give back.** Recent research found that 80% of employers value volunteer experience on a resume. Additionally, 84% of the employers surveyed agreed that volunteering is a great way for people to find work. Volunteering shows employers that you are a compassionate person. It can also help you to develop new skills and to grow your network. Our [Service Opportunity](#) site is an excellent resource for finding volunteer opportunities.

**Get experience.** When choosing between a candidate who has a 4.0 GPA but no experience, and a candidate with a 3.0 GPA who has solid experience, the employer will likely choose the candidate with experience. This is because more than anything, employers desire candidates with experience—the more the better. Experience comes in the form of full- and part-time work, internships, and volunteering. As you gain experience, be sure to keep track of it so you can put it on your resume.

**Get skilled.** In addition to the tips mentioned above, you should work to develop/improve those skills that are most desired by employers. These include: communication, analytical/research, computer/technical, flexibility/adaptability, interpersonal, leadership/management, multicultural, planning/organization, problem-solving/creativity, and teamwork skills.

**Get character.** Employers favor candidates who they perceive as having good character. The most important element of good character, from an employer's perspective is integrity, or honesty. Other factors include hard work, dependability/reliability, loyalty, positive attitude, self-motivation, and confidence.

**Go abroad.** Ready to put the icing on the cake? You may also want to consider getting out of your comfort zone and studying abroad. The experience adds to your resume, and to your overall perspective of the world. Check out Fontbonne's [study abroad programs](#) which include both short-term and long-term trips.

**Get going.** Don't wait until you're about to graduate to get started! Start early, optimally in your Freshman year. This is especially true with gaining experience. Starting early will give you plenty of time to amass experience and do everything else you need to do to stand out.