SELLING YOUR LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE: PART 3

(Request an electronic copy of Part 1 and 2 by emailing career@hsu.edu)

The Association for American Colleges and Universities (AACU) conducted a survey (2013) that measured expectations employers have for their college graduate hires. Employers cited the capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems as more important than a student’s choice of major. This week we discuss the latter of these transferable skills to market to potential employers: problem-solving skills.

Source: It Takes More than a College Major, Association of American Colleges and Universities, 2013

Problem-Solving Skills

As a liberal arts student, you have learned to extensively research the causes of a problem, evaluate potential solutions, choose a course of action, and evaluate the outcome.

Problem-solving skills allow for rapid movement of learning curves in response to new challenges. For example, if employers see that you have good problem-solving skills, they will allow you to acquire new and expanded projects so you will continually be challenged and have the opportunity to learn.

In a nationwide study, employers said that this increased responsibility “requires the ability to see things in a new light and make sense of ideas in old and new contexts, the kind of intellectual agility and enthusiasm they (the employers) perceive to be found in the traditional notion of a liberal arts education” (Hersh, 1997).

You are not only able to critically analyze problems but also communicate your thoughts and recommendations. The interconnectedness of all the skills you have developed as a liberal arts major is one of the strengths you have as you enter the world of work. You are a problem solver and a change agent not because you have some technical expertise but because of your ability to think critically, analyze the complexities of an issue, and communicate with others about your findings. Ultimately, you are able to offer solutions and make changes because you are flexible and understand the nature of organizational change.

Source: Selling Your Liberal Arts Degree to Employers, Martha Reineke

“You are a problem solver and a change agent not because you have some technical expertise but because of your ability to think critically, analyze the complexities of an issue, and communicate with others about your findings.” – Martha Reineke
A RECENT SUCCESS

Do you have a career success story to share? We want to know your story. Email us at: career@hsu.edu

UNSURE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR MAJOR?

Let’s recap the transferable skills that apply to ANY job:

- Interpersonal Skills
- Written and Oral Communication
- Adaptability to Change
- Critical and Analytical Thinking
- Problem-Solving

Employers do not look at specific majors as much as you might think. The majority of employers agree that field-specific knowledge AND a broad range of skills and knowledge is most important for college graduates to achieve long-term success. Eighty percent agree that college students should acquire a broad knowledge in the liberal arts and sciences and 74% would recommend a liberal education as the best way to prepare for success in today’s global economy.


Employers value and endorse a blended mode of liberal and applied learning. No matter your major, you can gain applied learning experience through collaborative problem-solving, internships, research, senior projects, and community engagements. It is perfectly normal for an English major to have a business internship or a Psychology major to intern in marketing or sales. If you are afraid of “choosing the wrong major,” don’t be! Think of the big picture and what skills you will gain no matter which major you declare. This will help reduce stress and anxiety, especially if you are unclear about it.

Contact Us

Center for Career Development
Henderson State University
870-230-5442
career@hsu.edu

![Importance of College Major](chart.png)

Only 19% of employers look for specific majors and do not consider candidates without them, while the majority -- 78% will consider any major.


If you missed the first two newletters that discuss the other skills, email us at career@hsu.edu for an electronic copy.

Qaulifications: Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent, including or supplemented by courses in data entry and general clerical subjects along with at least one year in accounting or general clerical work.

Drug Testing: All applicants are subject to pre-employment testing.

To Apply: Contact Human Resources Office at City Hall 133 Convention Blvd., HS, AR 71901 (501) 321-6841
Or log on to www.cityhs.net

All employees that wish to apply for a transfer or promotion to another classification and/or position must complete a “New Application for Transfer/Promotion Form” and return the original signed form to Human Resources by the closing date for the position. Forms are available in all departments as well as Human Resources. CLOSING DATE: December 18, 2014

JOB COACH—First Step Arkansas—Arkadelphia, AR— First Step serves individuals with developmental disabilities. Supported Employment is a program designed and defined by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. Individuals are assisted in securing and retaining employment in integrated work settings. Properly matching an individual to a job is the first concern. Once the individual is hired, a Job Coach learns the aspects of the job and then trains the individual at the workplace. Coaching fades gradually as a trainee’s independent job performance develops. Periodic follow-up support is then provided for the duration of the individual’s employment. Job Coach Positions vary by days per week, hours per day, and times of day – all of these are determined by the needs of the individual and the job in which he/she is placed. For more information email Joanne Mitchell at joannem@fstep.org.


Job Summary: Designs, develops, implements and maintains computer applications and systems to meet the needs of Cooperative business functions.

Primary Responsibilities: (A full description can be found at www.aecc.com)
- Works with business owners and users to determine current and planned functionality and understand business processes
- Gathers/analyzes requirements and translates them into functional specifications and system design specifications
- Provides technical expertise and recommendations in assessing new IT software/hardware projects.
- Interacts with vendors to evaluate products, obtain quotations, recommend products, and track completion of orders
- Operates as the primary subject matter expert for multiple technology systems. Responsible for performance of revision, maintenance, or enhancement of existing applications to increase operating efficiency or adapt to new requirements
- Conducts application design sessions to translate the business requirements into discrete projects and tasks that can be performed by the programming staff. Performs project planning through scoping and estimation of appropriate tasks to implement identified solution(s)

Qualifications:
- Technical degree in Computer Science or related field is required
- 6 months related experience and/or training or equivalent combination of education and experience is preferred
- Advanced skills in programming, database usage & spreadsheets. Java programming experience a plus
- Available to work flexible or extended hours as needed; work on on-call basis as defined
- Proficient skills in MS Word and PowerPoint
- Valid driver’s license is required
The Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC) is a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas. AECC, founded in 1949, is the wholesale power supplier for 17 electric distribution cooperatives in Arkansas. These member cooperatives serve about 500,000 people in Arkansas and surrounding states by providing them with reliable and affordable electricity to power their homes, businesses and farms. We are member-owned and democratically controlled businesses with service areas that cover more than 60 percent of Arkansas’ land area. AECC offers a competitive benefits and compensation package.

**WEBSITE BUILDER AND HOST – Balboa Baptist Church of Hot Springs Village** is seeking a website builder and host. (The church is 30 minutes north of Hot Springs stay on Hwy 7 to Hwy 5 to Desoto Blvd to Ponce De Leon Dr.)

Part-time Paid Position.

Qualifications:
- Desire a Junior or Sophomore class student for longevity and continuity
- Need Resume related to both computer skills and at least 4 documented references for websites built, plus general background, jobs and anything you feel would be helpful for us to know you related to our church's mission, which is "To know Christ personally and to make Him known."
- Must have highest integrity and punctuality with deadlines, call backs etc.
- Give permission for a background check if selected
- Have transportation for interview, consultations with employer that can't be done by computer (mileage paid) (infrequent trips expected)
- Able to advise supervisor as to needed costs for domains and, if not built from scratch, the cost of Website programs such as, Cloversite or equivalent professional sites allowing audio and possible future Video streaming
- Build website and test operation for smoothness and correctness in 1 month or less and then perform website updates, and/or improvements as we discuss 1 hour weekly
- Able to advise about means and ways of audio and video streaming

Pay Structure:
The Web site fee is negotiable, but the update weekly hosting or improvements would be $50 for 1 hour, realizing some weeks will take less time and then some more time.

Contact information:
Rev Jim Raney, Minister of Music
501-984-0577 cell
musicbbc@sbcglobal.net
Balboa Baptist Church
www.balboach.org
415 Ponce De Leon Dr.
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
501-922-0155 church

**Internships**

**FBI INTERNSHIP**—The FBI will host a paid 10-week Cyber internship program during the summer of 2015. The internship employment dates will be 6/1/2015 – 8/7/2015. The internship will be open to qualified students who are pursuing degrees to include but not limited to Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Network Administration, Mathematics, etc. The internship will be open to college sophomore, junior, senior, and graduate students (at the time of hire). A student cannot be graduating before the internship program begins. Students must have and maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above based on a 4.0 GPA scale and be in good academic standing. Students will be hired in local FBI field offices, Cyber and Operational Technology Divisions, FBI Headquarters, etc. Please see the attached flyer for additional qualifications and preferred degrees. Please share this flyer with students who may be interested in applying for the internship program. **Closing date: 12/08/2014.**