

Video Transcript: Get Hired at the Illinois State University Career Fair

Narrator:

You've attended your classes, taken your exams, and now – you're ready to get a job in your chosen field. A career Fair can be intimidating. But the Career Center at Illinois State wants to help you prepare for a career fair to help you feel confident...and GET HIRED!

At the beginning of each career fair, the Career Center hosts a behind the scenes tour of the fair to help you get familiar with the fair before you enter.

Tour Host:

Normally what you'll want to do is introduce yourself. Tell them who you are, maybe a little about the coursework you've done in your major, how it might relate to that particular company's needs. You'll learn how to strategically select employers to visit, get tips on what to say to employers, and get ideas on appropriate questions to ask employers to help you put your best foot forward.

Narrator:

Checking into the fair is simple! The only thing you need – besides a great looking suit and a gleaming smile is your Redbird ID card. Once you enter the fair you can visit any employer that interests you. As you stop by a table, introduce yourself by name and a handshake. Be sure to have plenty of copies of your resume to share as you meet.

Dressing the part is very important to make a good first impression. Wear a business suit and keep your personal items in a briefcase or padfolio. You should also be clean, neat and well groomed from head to toe.

Student 1:

I have been coming to this fair since my first semester. I have seen the change in myself. Because the first day I came I wore just a normal a shirt and pants. But this time, I bought a suit from The Limited. So, it's good.

Student 2:

It was actually rewarding. I was a little nervous at first, but actually getting in there and going and talking with employers opens your eyes to see what the interview process will be like, and what the job process is going to be.

Student 3:

The fair was actually really good. Talked to a decent amount of employers. It's a good experience to just go up and talk to them about what you do, your year, you know... just a little about yourself. It's kind of nerve racking for a little bit, but once you get into the zone, once you're nice and warmed up, it's kind of good to get in there and talk to a lot employers.

Student 4:

I would say go and check it out for the experience, just so you can put yourself out there and find out more information, get comfortable with talking to recruiters, and everything. That way you are practicing and getting better, and improving on your skills.

Student 5:

I know that I had never been to one before, and I almost wish I been to more prior to this to get more experience, because I am a senior. But, overall it was a great experience. It gives you experience interviewing, which you can never have enough experience with that.

Student 6:

As an underclassman, I was very unaware of what the Career Center has to offer. Now I know that they have mock interviews and resume critiques. Those are two huge tools that will help you a lot, and give you a huge advantage against the competition.

Student 1:

I would say, go early. Work on your resume. Get it critiqued. And then just go to the career fairs as much as you can. Because it's easy to say, "I'll go next year. I'll go next year," then your senior year comes and it's too late and you're unprepared.

Narrator:

Overall, here are the top ten tips the Career Center provides to students when attending a career fair.

1. Research employers before the fair.
2. Define your career goals and the opportunities you want.
3. Prepare a short 30-second commercial.
4. Consult a career advisor.
5. Be professional and polite.
6. Use your time well.
7. Ask employer what your next step should be.
8. Complete online process ASAP.
9. Sent thank-you letter within 24 hours.
10. Be realistic when offered a position.

Make sure to attend the next career fair for your opportunity to meet with employers, get an interview, and just maybe...get hired! Visit the Career Center, located on the corner of College and University for more information and the support you need!