Get a Summer Internship!

Fang-I Chu

Statistics and Applied Probability
University of California, Santa Barbara

November 22, 2013
Overview

- Source of information
- Timeline
- SWOT analysis
- All about Interview
  - Type
  - Before
  - After
Source of information

Where could I get the information about internship?

- **PSTAT mailing list:**
  - The contacts usually have certain level of connection with department.
  - Local company listings.
  - More likely to get interview (then get hired).

- **American Statistical Association:**
  - Statistics-related content of internship.
  - Company size is usually large.
  - Early application deadline (Usually from November to February).

- **Job search engines:**
  - LinkedIn, indeed.com, Simply hired, beyond.com, The Ladders, snagajob.com, monster.com (and more..)
  - Diverse information about current employment market.
  - All kinds of statistics/financial related positions are listed.
  - Different requirement about academic background and desired skill level of candidate.
When should I start putting my resume in?

**Answer:** NOW! and do not stop sending out your resume UNTIL you get at least one solid offer...

Why is it best to start now?

**Answer:** Early application will ensure the position filled by YOU earlier (if you are the ideal candidate), since a lot of companies start interviewing applicants BEFORE the deadline is hit.

Why do you need to send out resumes till last minutes?

**Answer:** The internship positions will continue being posted until even late May. Do not give up on putting in resumes even you thought all summer positions are filled up. (I got actually 4-5 calls for interviews to big companies late april/ early May AFTER I took the offer.)
SWOT Analysis

Definition: structured planning method used to evaluate the Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threaten of one object. (YOU!)

Aim:
- Find the best angle to present yourself on paper and further over interviews.
- Seek ways to turn your weakness into positive face and threaten into opportunity.
- Keep your head straight on how to market yourself.

"Before you could promote yourself efficiently, you have to understand yourself first!" - Fang-I
1. Present your Strength with full power:
   - Organize your previous education/work into a clear resume (or a personal website).
   - Layout your cover letter with concise, brief and focused ideas.
   - Your provided materials should be customized and related to the applied position.
   - Collect the previous projects in digital format.
2. Manage your weakness skillfully:

- People always appreciate your honesty.
- Provide solutions about your weakness.
  Example, your enthusiastic attitude toward learning the skills which you currently are lack of.
- Offer different prospective to the weakness.
  Example, your transcript for BA isn’t great, but your overall performance is uprising. This indicates your potential in long term.

3. Opportunity:

- Being creative but well-mannered brings opportunity.
- Confidence and self-assurance also ensure your unique state, which lead you opportunity.

4. Threaten:

- No larger threaten exists except for YOURSELF!
- Always stay positive.
Type of Interview

1. Phone interview (screening):
   - Behavior questions: with purpose to get a sense of your personality. Example: how you deal with conflict value in working environment.
   - Situation questions: Similar to behavior question, a scenario about particular issue is proposed to you. Example: project deadline is tomorrow, but you couldn’t make it, what would you do?

   **TIP:** use actual event in your past to illustrate/response these two types of questions.

2. Skill set interview (technical interview):
   - Be honest about what you know and what you do not know.
   - Avoid bluffing (since people will find out soon or later).

   **Remark:** A lot of time, companies desire you have the attitude/ability to learn rather than listed skill set.
What could you do before interview?

- Learn about the company and position as much as you can.
- Prepare question list (10 questions) for interviewers after you study for company and position.
- Research for what type of questions from previous years have been asked. Prepare your answers into word on a paper.
- Relate your skill set, background, interests and motivation to the position.
- Get the name of the interviewers beforehand, if possible, allows you:
  - to have an idea about the background of interviewers. (may help you reduce anxiety)
  - to draw a rough outline about what to expect.
After interview

- Thank you note (to each interviewer):
  - Send out within 1 day after interview. (ASAP)
  - Summarize what you learned during interview triggers your further interests toward the position.
  - State what makes you the ideal candidate for this position in concise and focused manner in the mail.
  - Supplement material or points you want to attach within the mail.

  **Remark**: The gesture of thank you note is part of professional etiquette. Even reply to a rejected interview result mail is considered to be good manner.

- Follow-up if you haven’t heard anything 1 week after interview.
- No matter how good you feel about that interview you just had, keep sending out resumes!
Thank you for your attention!
ANY QUESTION?