



Making the Most out of an Information Session

Information sessions are a great way to learn about companies that you may want to work for, engage directly with individuals that work there and practice your networking skills. At info sessions, you will learn about what type of work the company does, their history and work culture, and opportunities to apply for internships and/or employment. To help you make the most of these events, here are a few tips.

Actively Listen to the Presentation

If you choose to come to the event, make sure you have enough time to stay for the entire presentation. Take notes during the presentation and ask questions, this will demonstrate interest and engagement. If you apply for a position and are selected for an interview with the company, these notes will come in handy while interviewing.

Come prepared

If you're interested in working for the company, this is an opportunity to make a great first impression. Usually, the second half of the info session is dedicated to networking, so take advantage of this time and introduce yourself. Do your research on the company, the presenter if they're advertised, and be prepared to speak about your coursework/professional/volunteer experience and how it's relevant to the company. Also, be prepared to speak about what you'd be like to work with and how you align with the company's mission and values; e.g., being a team player and having a problem solving mindset are qualities companies are often looking for. Bring a few copies of your resume and hand it to the company representatives if you'd like to be considered for employment.

Have something to say

Introducing yourself to an industry representative can be intimidating, but remember that you should be evaluating the company as a potential employer as much as they are evaluating you as a potential employee. It can help to have some ice breakers in mind before approaching them.

Some examples of topics to bring up so the company can learn more about you:

- Capstone or research project(s) that you have worked on that relate to their work.
- Student organization events that you are helping to organize that may be interested in attending.

Sample questions to evaluate the company as a potential employer

- Why did you join [company name]?
- What differentiates [company name] from its competitors?
- What is the culture like at [company name]?
- Have you experienced any difficulties while working at [company name] - and how did you overcome them?
- Any additional questions you may have about their talk or the company.

If you have any questions, contact Ashley Antoon at antoon@enr.ucsb.edu or 805-893-5676.