Career Center Spotlight: Campus Recruiting

Campus recruiting in Aggieland is not matched at any other university in the US. Campus recruiting through the Career Center includes over 1500 employers coming to and through TAMU to find you! A typical job search involves you finding employers, finding the right person to send your resume to, trying to schedule interviews, and hoping to get an offer. Campus recruiting involves having employers come to the Career Center to find you and your resume, employers selecting you for interviews in the Career Center, and you having the potential of choosing between multiple offers. It’s your choice!

HireAggies.com is your ticket into Campus Recruiting, allowing you to view listings specifically for your major as well as giving you access to more than 8000 opportunities (including interview schedules, resume referrals and Aggie Classifieds).
Do you ever feel like just when you’ve finally got your act together, life throws you a curve ball? Whether it’s a hostile roommate, a sick parent, or just the demands of maintaining a healthy job/academic schedule/relationship, the shifts and changes of life can really throw a wrench in carefully laid plans.

On a Mission
Let’s say you’re the CEO of Nabisco. You know you’d like to make some money, but you haven’t really planned out how you want to get that done—you just know there might be Oreos involved. You figure, you’ll just wing it. How’s that going to go for you?

Probably not so well.

One of the ways big companies stay big (and successful) companies is by defining what they want—exactly what they want—and then breaking it down into small pieces so they can get there.

You: A Definition
It’s time to sit down and figure out what your mission statement is - in words. Start by visualizing where you want to be—in one year, five years, ten years. What do you want people to think about you? What do you want them to feel when they’re with you? How do you want to affect your family, your friends, your community, the world?

Basically, what do you want to DO with your life—NOT necessarily your CAREER—but your life.

Write it Down
When you’re done, write down your mission statement. It might take some finesse to get it right, but write down your mission statement. Google “mission statement” plus the names of some companies (or even your school) to get an idea of what yours might look like.

Apply It
So, once you’ve got your ultimate lifetime mission statement, what are you supposed to do with it?

Simply put, you apply it. Start looking at your day-to-day activities and tasks from the perspective of how it helps you reach your life mission—and think about that when you are tempted to waste time messing around on the internet or even staring at the ceiling (it has been known to happen!).

So if you felt your life mission was to effect political change, you might spend time researching, networking, volunteering with a political party, etc. If you want to make people happier, you might focus on smaller things like making a phone call to your lonely grandparent or holding open the door for someone at the cafe. If you want to write a book, you might shift your classes to focus more on writing techniques, or spend time you used to spend blogging working on a manuscript.

Keep it in Check
That said, now that you’re looking at life with your mission statement in mind; remember that the mission isn’t everything. Your mission statement is not a ruling force of life, but instead a reminder of where your free time could be spent. Don’t give up your job, relationships, or, uh, stop washing your laundry… Just think about your mission statement when you’re building your week schedule, or find yourself with a few extra minutes.

In the end, it’s all about making the world a better place and getting to your goals one step at a time.
So, you want to apply for a scholarship. Or med school. Or grad school. Or a really competitive job. What do all these things have in common? Clearly, you need some awesome letters of recommendation. This is how you go about getting them:

**Do Some Legwork.** Not applying for med school for two more years? Perfect. Start networking NOW. The sooner you start making friends with the people you want to recommend you, the better your chances that they WILL recommend you. Early networking means your letter-writer will know you better, and (hopefully) be more inclined to be your advocate. Plus, they won’t feel like you’ve used them just for a letter, which, frankly, can make them just say no.

**Choose Wisely.** If you want good, solid letters of recommendation, choose people with whom you have a good rapport. (Go for the professors whose classes you have aced, not the ones who gave you a C+ on your final.) Also, stay away from asking family. Instead, try asking professors, employers, volunteer/church leaders, or long-time family friends who work in your field.

**Give Plenty of Notice.** Remember how hard it is to write a good paper the night before its due? Don’t put that kind of pressure on your letter-writers! If possible, give them at least a solid month to write your letter (and give them a deadline before the real one in case they’re late!).

**Give them Specifics.** Let your recommendation writer know exactly what you need in the letter, especially if you need them to focus on certain aspects of your achievements. If your letter-writer has never written a letter of recommendation before, be sure to give them some samples (the Career Centers is usually a good source for these, or you can look around online) and let them know about how long it should be. A too-short letter of recommendation can be almost as bad as a half-hearted one.

**Offer to Help.** Ask your letter writer what you can do to help them out. Do they need a list of your awards and achievements? Do they want to read your application essay? Try to give them as much assistance as you can so they can get your letter written quickly—and well! Providing them with a one or two page resume of your list of achievements can jog their memories, inform them of things they didn’t previously know about you and make the task a lot easier.

**Final Tip:** Ask your letter-writer to send you a digital copy of the letter once it has been sent. Keep all your letters in a folder, so that if you need to apply to another scholarship or school, you can just send the copy to your recommendation writer to sign and send off. They’ll be more willing to help you multiple times if they don’t have to search their own computer for the letter multiple times!

Retrieved and adapted from survivingcollegelife.com/2009/04/18/how-to-get-stellar-letters-of-recommendation/

---

**Words of Wisdom**

“Make your life a mission, not an intermission.”

~ Arnold H. Glasgow