

Tips for Career Fair Success

Be prepared: What are your career goals at this time? If possible, go through the list of companies prior to the event and research a few that you would really like to see. Dress professionally, as you would for an interview. For campus career fairs, employer listings can be accessed via your [Ram Career Network](#) account, in the “Events” menu. For regional or campus career fairs, the announcements typically contain all the details to prepare for the event.

Bring copies of your resume: Invest in a portfolio to keep copies of your resume, a pen and a place to put business cards that you collect during the event. 15+ copies of your resume on resume paper are a good number. You can bring more or less depending on your goal for the event.

Practice your introduction: Is your handshake a 'floppy fish' or a bone-crunching experience? Practice your handshake. Rehearse a brief introduction or a 'one minute summary' (your name, major, interest in company, type of job you are seeking, skills and qualifications).

Plan your strategy: Understand the layout of tables or ask a staff/volunteer for assistance. Take a moment to go through the Career Fair booklet or program usually provided to you at the door. Get a sense of which companies you would definitely like to visit at the event.

Check your attitude: Be optimistic, but have realistic expectations. Career Fairs are an excellent way to network for a job and connect with employer representatives. The Fair may or may not directly lead to a job offer, but it is a great place to make connections for future follow-up and learning about new opportunities.

Be polite: Smile and be patient with all the people you meet. Recruiters are watching and listening to determine if you act professionally.

Gather information: Pick up business cards and corporate literature for future reference. Avoid taking lots of toys and prizes.

Treasure hunt: Be on the lookout for that one company that no one's checking out-the one where the recruiter is smiling because they know they've got something good, but no one has heard of them before.

Follow through: Send a thank you note to companies you are interested in. Many companies have their applications online, so be sure to follow up by completing an online application.