

# HAVE A LOW GPA?

## FOLLOW THIS ROADMAP TO LAND A JOB/INTERNSHIP

So, you're looking for an internship or full-time job and in all the applications you see companies have a minimum GPA requirement the candidate must meet. No worries, a low GPA can actually be an advantage. Follow these techniques to get an offer without bringing up your GPA.

**APPLYING ONLINE:** Applying online is not the ideal method for students with a low GPA, but if you're forced to apply online use the following advice. Leave your GPA off your resume if it is under 3.2. Do not bring it up unless they ask. Instead, fill your resume with experience like a detailed explanation of a project or club you're involved with or previous professional work in the field you're applying to.

**PROJECTS AND CLUBS:** Projects and clubs are the low GPAer's best friend.

### Projects and clubs:

1. Develop your professional network.
2. Demonstrate technical experience in the field you're going into.
3. Give you experience solving problems with a team.
4. Let you determine what you like and dislike doing in that field.
5. Develop confidence in the field.

If I were a freshman in college again, I would have done more projects that academic clubs offered and would have joined clubs sooner. The times I was happiest throughout college were times where I was attending clubs frequently where I made friends and gained professional skills. The current president of a club I attend has a 2.9 GPA and is currently interning at an

international company. He got the job by networking with myself who had interned at the company and another member who had as well. Throughout the interview process, he was never asked his GPA even once. Do projects and clubs for the reasons above and if executed correctly you will have contacts to get an internship or full-time job.

**NETWORKING:** I will go deeper into networking ideas here. You can network with classmates, clubmates, interns, professionals, managers, and recruiters to bypass the online application to get to the interview. You can network with classmates by asking if they know of any local companies hiring interns/full-time. If that person is currently in an internship or a full-time role, you can ask if their company is currently hiring or if they could ask their manager if their program is looking for entry level employees or if other programs are. At the first company I interned at, my manager was looking for a second intern. If any of my friends would have been qualified, interested, and asked me if my program was looking for another intern, then they would have almost certainly gotten the job. The manager knows more about intern hiring throughout the company than the current intern would, and the manager has more connections. Additionally, if the student you're talking to recently had left an internship or full-time role and left a vacancy then you can ask them if you'd be qualified for the role. I have given and received an internship this way. Another added benefit of networking with your peers, which is quite obvious, is that they can give you advice along your journey. If they had an internship for example, they can show you the path to getting one too.

Networking with recruiters could seem intimidating if you've never done it before, but it's easy. Recruiters are paid to get students like you jobs and they can be found here: on LinkedIn, speaking at meetings of professional clubs you should join, at career/internship fairs, and tabling on campus. Don't be shy. Remember, recruiters are compensated to get students like

you a job. Other professionals higher up in the company and managers are found at these places too. They can accelerate your hiring process.

### **MAIN TAKEAWAY:**

Look at your **low GPA as an advantage**. Your low GPA forces you to put effort into the steps that actually matter; thus, you take the road-less-traveled method of job. You will be taking advantage of things like networking and joining clubs that higher GPA students should be doing, but many don't because they aren't aware of these concepts because they're either too focused on class or too focused on applying online! The higher GPA students will be competing with each other through the software filter in the online application portal while you will be using your connections and hands-on experience to get a job lined up.

Questions? Email me: [brady.k.career@gmail.com](mailto:brady.k.career@gmail.com)