

hk
Mw
db
Beth Pottroff
NW Missourian

Interviews can be intimidating and cause anxiety and dread. Luckily, here at Northwest, Bearcats can prepare for real world interviews by attending Mock Interview Day.

Mock Interview Day allows students at Northwest to gain interview experience by meeting real employers in person. Employers interview the students and give them direct feedback on their resumes, interview responses and overall impressions. Each mock interview session takes around 40 minutes, with 20 minutes spent on the interview and 10 to 15 for feedback and critique.

On the Northwest website, the career services page contains many different resources with tips and advice on how to prepare for an interview. The professional staff members at Career Services share more tips on how to make interviews successful. The Career Service members put together Mock Interview Day to allow Bearcats to prepare for real interviews. Preparation includes researching the employer, understanding the job description and dressing appropriately.

Joan Schneider is the director of Career Services. Each year, the staff at Career Services invite employers to participate in Mock Interview Day based on industry, class requirements and faculty input.

According to Career Services, there are many do's for a person during an interview. Going to the interview alone and arriving early is a strongly advised do. This allows the person being interviewed to become focused and less flustered. It is also important to dress well and to greet the employer by name in a poised and friendly matter. Shaking hands is also crucial. A good, firm, one to two pump handshake is much better than a limp, loose one.

Other do's that Career Services listed included speaking clearly, making eye contact and answering questions promptly, accurately and honestly. There are more links to help develop better interview skills at the Career Services webpage.

Things such as dressing in unprofessional, dirty clothing, using vulgar language and being disrespectful would be don'ts. Being unprepared is another don't. Employers do not want to talk to people who are nervous, avoid eye contact and not knowledgeable about the company that could hire them.

Bearcat Sydney Jones shared what her Mock Interview day experience was like. She enjoyed the opportunity to speak to employers and gain insight about the professional work world.

"It was a nerve racking experience, but once you were in front of the professional, it wasn't as bad," Jones said.

The biggest thing Jones learned from being interviewed is to always ask questions. Asking questions at the end of an interview shows that a person has interest in the company. Jones' advice for first-time interviewers is to dress professionally and to be themselves.

"Dress in something that shows your professional personality," Jones said. "Just be confident and be you. The rest will take care of itself."

Mock Interview Day took place Oct. 5 on the third floor of the Union. It lasted from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The next Mock Interview opportunity will be Feb. 22, 2017.