

TOP 10 THINGS I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I STARTED SHRLR PROGRAM AT MSU

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1. Enter the program with a resume. This will be the first impression recruiters have of you. Keep in mind that revisions should be made, but entering the program with a well-developed resume will give you a good foundation.
2. Begin NOW to think about internships and applying for them. It seems far away, but it's not; recruiters often come early in the semester. Most students intern their first summer and those internships many times turn into jobs. Also begin to think about how you can market your past experiences in an interview.
3. Build your network- Get to know your classmates, they are your future colleague. Get to know your professors, they can offer you a great amount of advice on issues both in the classroom and on your job search.
4. Find time to get involved within the program. SHRM and GSA are great organizations that afford many opportunities to meet recruiters, alumni, and professionals, while helping you to enhance your professional development.
5. SHRLR is packed with group work. If you have difficulty working and playing well with others, learn how to ASAP, or you will be miserable.
6. Keep everything and keep it organized. EVERYTHING you learn will apply someday, somehow. This includes classroom handouts, projects, books, course packs, and contact information. You are never going to remember it all, but you should know how to find it.
7. There is a difference between the transactional personnel clerk and the strategic Human Resource Professional. You are here to learn how to be the latter.
8. A degree from SHRLR says a lot about you. When you get your first job after graduation, you will be given more responsibility than you think you can handle because of your degree. Realize then that although you are nervous, you have been given all the tools you need at SLIR and you are qualified to do the job.
9. Figure out what you want to do when you graduate and stick to that goal. Don't let pressure from recruiters offering tons of money or fellow students who are all talking about amazing job offers they are getting steer you away from what you want to do. You will do well for yourself after you leave here no matter what you choose to do. The trick is to make sure you are happy doing it.
10. It's worth it. Even though you might have doubts when you are nose-deep in a Compensation project and your group isn't functioning well and you are sleep deprived and stressed out. All the knowledge you will gain, skills you will build and connection with others in the HR field you will make is certainly worth all the work when you are looking at it from the other side.