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Q1. Which do you think looks better to employers when applying for jobs?

		Financial Aid			Gender			Major	Political Leaning		
	Total	No	Yes	Other	Female	Male	Non Binary	Other	Democrat	Independent	Republican
An internship at a prestigious company	72%	68%	73%	70%	71%	74%	73%	72%	71%	73%	72%
An undergraduate degree from a prestigious university	28%	32%	27%	30%	29%	26%	27%	28%	29%	27%	28%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(2470)	(792)	(1637)	(41)	(1115)	(1244)	(111)	(2470)	(845)	(1277)	(343)

		Race						
	Total	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	American Indian	Two Or More Races	Other
An internship at a prestigious company	72%	72%	79%	66%	74%	74%	71%	72%
An undergraduate degree from a prestigious university	28%	28%	21%	34%	26%	26%	29%	28%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(2470)	(1602)	(305)	(144)	(191)	(14)	(169)	(42)

Internships poll

February 2020 - 2500 US college students



		Year (ctd.)								
	Total	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Other
An internship at a prestigious company	72%	65%	41%	72%	80%	73%	70%	75%	72%	59%
An undergraduate degree from a prestigious university	28%	35%	59%	28%	20%	27%	30%	25%	28%	41%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(2470)	(12)	(20)	(46)	(136)	(549)	(710)	(573)	(352)	(64)

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Q2. Which statement on internships comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?

		Financial Aid			Gender			Major	Political Leaning		
	Total	No	Yes	Other	Female	Male	Non Binary	Other	Democrat	Independent	Republican
All companies should pay interns for their work	74%	67%	75%	86%	75%	71%	89%	74%	82%	73%	54%
It's okay for some companies to not pay interns because interns gain valuable experience	26%	33%	25%	14%	25%	29%	11%	26%	18%	27%	46%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(2477)	(795)	(1641)	(41)	(1116)	(1248)	(113)	(2477)	(848)	(1280)	(344)

		Race						
	Total	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	American Indian	Two Or More Races	Other
All companies should pay interns for their work	74%	73%	70%	78%	74%	69%	73%	66%
It's okay for some companies to not pay interns because interns gain valuable experience	26%	27%	30%	22%	26%	31%	27%	34%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(2477)	(1605)	(306)	(146)	(191)	(14)	(169)	(43)

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		Year (ctd.)								
	Total	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Other
All companies should pay interns for their work	74%	72%	78%	67%	76%	76%	75%	75%	69%	64%
It's okay for some companies to not pay interns because interns gain valuable experience	26%	28%	22%	33%	24%	24%	25%	25%	31%	36%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(2477)	(12)	(20)	(46)	(136)	(550)	(713)	(575)	(353)	(64)

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Q3. Roughly what percent of internships do you think mostly involve menial tasks, such as stuffing envelopes, filing, or running errands?

		Financial Aid			Gender			Major	Political Leaning		
	Total	No	Yes	Other	Female	Male	Non Binary	Other	Democrat	Independent	Republican
100%	5%	4%	5%	3%	4%	5%	3%	5%	6%	4%	2%
75%	24%	25%	24%	16%	25%	23%	29%	24%	24%	24%	25%
50%	41%	44%	40%	44%	42%	37%	52%	41%	42%	40%	39%
25%	25%	21%	25%	34%	24%	27%	12%	25%	22%	26%	29%
10%	5%	6%	5%	4%	4%	6%	4%	5%	5%	5%	4%
0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	101%	100%	100%	101%	99%	99%	100%	101%	99%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(2473)	(795)	(1637)	(41)	(1113)	(1247)	(113)	(2473)	(849)	(1275)	(344)

		Race						
	Total	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	American Indian	Two Or More Races	Other
100%	5%	3%	6%	7%	9%	7%	4%	2%
75%	24%	25%	29%	19%	26%	28%	22%	33%
50%	41%	42%	38%	46%	33%	38%	47%	37%
25%	25%	25%	22%	23%	28%	28%	20%	21%
10%	5%	5%	5%	5%	3%	0%	7%	6%
0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	101%	100%	101%	100%	101%	101%	100%	99%
(Unweighted N)	(2473)	(1604)	(306)	(143)	(191)	(14)	(169)	(43)

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		Year (ctd.)								
	Total	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Other
100%	5%	50%	23%	14%	6%	4%	3%	5%	3%	5%
75%	24%	28%	52%	35%	20%	23%	27%	20%	28%	16%
50%	41%	7%	23%	36%	41%	39%	39%	45%	43%	35%
25%	25%	15%	2%	13%	23%	27%	25%	25%	21%	43%
10%	5%	0%	0%	2%	10%	6%	6%	4%	4%	2%
0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	101%	100%	100%	100%	101%	99%	100%	100%	99%	101%
(Unweighted N)	(2473)	(12)	(20)	(46)	(136)	(550)	(710)	(575)	(352)	(64)

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Q4. Have you had an internship during college?

		Financial Aid			Gender			Major	Political Leaning		
	Total	No	Yes	Other	Female	Male	Non Binary	Other	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Yes	34%	41%	32%	43%	32%	36%	26%	34%	37%	30%	38%
No, but I plan on having an internship	43%	37%	44%	39%	43%	42%	46%	43%	42%	45%	35%
No, and I don't plan to	24%	22%	24%	18%	24%	22%	27%	24%	21%	24%	27%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	101%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%	101%	100%	99%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(2018)	(646)	(1346)	(26)	(854)	(1068)	(96)	(2018)	(657)	(1059)	(299)

		Race						
	Total	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	American Indian	Two Or More Races	Other
Yes	34%	36%	40%	32%	25%	39%	38%	37%
No, but I plan on having an internship	43%	39%	41%	50%	50%	33%	45%	38%
No, and I don't plan to	24%	25%	20%	18%	25%	29%	17%	25%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	101%	100%	101%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(2018)	(1351)	(204)	(123)	(151)	(13)	(142)	(32)

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		Year (ctd.)								
	Total	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Other
Yes	34%	71%	22%	45%	55%	49%	38%	19%	9%	43%
No, but I plan on having an internship	43%	7%	52%	15%	7%	20%	44%	62%	77%	16%
No, and I don't plan to	24%	22%	26%	40%	38%	31%	19%	19%	14%	41%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(2018)	(12)	(20)	(47)	(136)	(459)	(587)	(474)	(206)	(65)

Q5. Was your last internship paid?

		Financial Aid		Gender			Major	Political Leaning		
	Total	No	Yes	Female	Male	Non Binary	Other	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Yes	64%	63%	64%	56%	73%	61%	64%	55%	70%	68%
No	36%	37%	36%	44%	27%	39%	36%	45%	30%	32%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(734)	(265)	(459)	(316)	(392)	(26)	(734)	(255)	(359)	(118)

		Race					
	Total	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	Two Or More Races	Other
Yes	64%	64%	62%	74%	51%	84%	54%
No	36%	36%	38%	26%	49%	16%	46%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(734)	(494)	(85)	(43)	(42)	(53)	(13)

		Year						
	Total	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Other
Yes	64%	69%	64%	62%	62%	71%	60%	71%
No	36%	31%	36%	38%	38%	29%	40%	29%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(734)	(24)	(78)	(235)	(237)	(97)	(17)	(31)

Q6. Why do you not plan on having an internship during college? Select all that apply.

		Financial Aid		Gender			Major	Political Leaning		
	Total	No	Yes	Female	Male	Non Binary	Other	Democrat	Independent	Republican
I can't afford to work for free	25%	19%	26%	31%	18%	11%	25%	28%	23%	26%
My field doesn't have internships	17%	25%	15%	19%	16%	3%	17%	19%	16%	14%
I don't have time for an internship	17%	11%	17%	16%	16%	29%	17%	21%	15%	15%
I don't want an internship	13%	15%	12%	10%	15%	15%	13%	12%	13%	12%
Other	12%	14%	11%	12%	11%	9%	12%	7%	13%	16%
I already have a job relevant to my field	9%	8%	9%	5%	13%	22%	9%	6%	11%	9%
I already have a job that pays better	9%	8%	9%	7%	11%	12%	9%	8%	9%	8%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	102%	100%	99%	100%	100%	101%	102%	101%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(459)	(140)	(314)	(201)	(230)	(28)	(459)	(138)	(249)	(72)

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		Race				
	Total	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	Two Or More Races
I can't afford to work for free	25%	26%	13%	28%	23%	43%
My field doesn't have internships	17%	16%	27%	19%	18%	3%
I don't have time for an internship	17%	17%	5%	12%	18%	17%
I don't want an internship	13%	14%	16%	16%	7%	13%
Other	12%	10%	27%	10%	17%	8%
I already have a job relevant to my field	9%	7%	11%	11%	12%	8%
I already have a job that pays better	9%	11%	0%	5%	5%	8%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	102%	101%	99%	101%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(459)	(330)	(36)	(20)	(37)	(24)

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		Year						
	Total	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Other
I can't afford to work for free	25%	17%	27%	21%	34%	20%	34%	26%
My field doesn't have internships	17%	16%	18%	8%	24%	21%	16%	21%
I don't have time for an internship	17%	18%	12%	25%	11%	19%	6%	9%
I don't want an internship	13%	30%	2%	10%	15%	16%	11%	17%
Other	12%	9%	8%	15%	5%	14%	21%	3%
I already have a job relevant to my field	9%	0%	14%	13%	5%	2%	12%	11%
I already have a job that pays better	9%	11%	19%	9%	5%	7%	0%	13%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	102%	101%	100%	101%	99%	99%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(459)	(19)	(48)	(139)	(102)	(86)	(29)	(23)

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Q7. What are your main reasons for wanting to take an internship during college? Select up to 2 responses.

		Financial Aid			Gender			Major	Political Leaning		
	Total	No	Yes	Other	Female	Male	Non Binary	Other	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Gain experience for my resume	65%	65%	65%	39%	66%	63%	70%	65%	66%	64%	63%
Prepare me for a full-time job	34%	33%	34%	27%	32%	38%	16%	34%	32%	36%	33%
Improve my skills	29%	25%	30%	42%	30%	28%	25%	29%	26%	32%	26%
See if the industry/job is a good fit	28%	30%	28%	42%	30%	26%	26%	28%	31%	26%	29%
Make professional contacts	25%	26%	25%	30%	25%	24%	40%	25%	27%	24%	25%
Other	7%	9%	7%	14%	7%	7%	12%	7%	7%	7%	10%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
(Unweighted N)	(1936)	(620)	(1291)	(25)	(817)	(1027)	(92)	(1936)	(634)	(1018)	(283)

		Race						
	Total	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	American Indian	Two Or More Races	Other
Gain experience for my resume	65%	64%	72%	65%	61%	63%	69%	85%
Prepare me for a full-time job	34%	31%	32%	45%	33%	44%	35%	31%
Improve my skills	29%	30%	31%	19%	35%	27%	22%	14%
See if the industry/job is a good fit	28%	29%	21%	30%	26%	16%	32%	23%
Make professional contacts	25%	26%	26%	26%	24%	24%	25%	17%
Other	7%	9%	7%	4%	5%	6%	8%	10%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
(Unweighted N)	(1936)	(1291)	(200)	(118)	(145)	(13)	(137)	(30)

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		Year (ctd.)								
	Total	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Other
Gain experience for my resume	65%	45%	42%	60%	73%	62%	68%	65%	62%	63%
Prepare me for a full-time job	34%	29%	44%	37%	29%	38%	29%	38%	35%	21%
Improve my skills	29%	14%	27%	35%	28%	28%	28%	28%	32%	39%
See if the industry/job is a good fit	28%	21%	16%	27%	27%	27%	30%	26%	31%	25%
Make professional contacts	25%	28%	14%	14%	22%	24%	26%	28%	27%	13%
Other	7%	7%	4%	5%	11%	9%	8%	6%	4%	11%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
(Unweighted N)	(1936)	(12)	(20)	(45)	(127)	(434)	(574)	(461)	(199)	(56)

Q8. What is the most valuable part of an internship in your opinion?

		Financial Aid			Gender			Major	Political Leaning		
	Total	No	Yes	Other	Female	Male	Non Binary	Other	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Learning how a company operates	12%	13%	11%	34%	11%	14%	7%	12%	11%	12%	16%
Learning new skills	42%	40%	42%	18%	45%	39%	32%	42%	44%	41%	36%
Networking	32%	30%	32%	32%	31%	33%	41%	32%	31%	33%	30%
Mentorship	10%	10%	10%	7%	10%	9%	12%	10%	10%	9%	11%
Other	5%	7%	4%	9%	3%	6%	8%	5%	4%	5%	6%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	101%	100%	99%	100%	100%	101%	100%	101%	100%	100%	99%
(Unweighted N)	(1988)	(637)	(1325)	(26)	(842)	(1051)	(95)	(1988)	(652)	(1041)	(295)

		Race						
	Total	White	Asian	Black Or African American	Hispanic Latino	American Indian	Two Or More Races	Other
Learning how a company operates	12%	12%	13%	12%	12%	21%	12%	13%
Learning new skills	42%	39%	53%	43%	44%	50%	44%	44%
Networking	32%	33%	20%	38%	28%	26%	21%	31%
Mentorship	10%	10%	10%	7%	9%	3%	15%	10%
Other	5%	5%	4%	1%	7%	0%	8%	3%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	101%	99%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	101%
(Unweighted N)	(1988)	(1336)	(200)	(118)	(148)	(13)	(139)	(32)

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		Year (ctd.)								
	Total	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Other
Learning how a company operates	12%	50%	21%	25%	7%	11%	13%	12%	6%	21%
Learning new skills	42%	22%	44%	36%	55%	41%	44%	38%	43%	32%
Networking	32%	28%	20%	31%	23%	34%	31%	33%	36%	28%
Mentorship	10%	0%	13%	5%	10%	9%	8%	12%	13%	11%
Other	5%	0%	2%	3%	5%	6%	5%	5%	2%	8%
Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	101%	100%	100%	100%
(Unweighted N)	(1988)	(12)	(20)	(45)	(132)	(451)	(584)	(469)	(205)	(62)

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Survey Methodology

This survey was designed and conducted by College Pulse. Interviews were conducted in English among a sample of 2500 undergraduate students who are currently enrolled in the U.S.

The initial sample was drawn from College Pulse's Undergraduate Student Panel that includes over 240,000 verified students representing more than 800 different colleges and universities in all 50 states. Panel members are recruited by a number of methods to help ensure diversity in the panel population, including web advertising, permission-based email campaigns, and partnerships with university organizations.

To reduce the effects of any non-response bias, a post-stratification adjustment was applied based on demographic distributions from the 2017 Current Population Survey (CPS). The post-stratification weight rebalanced the sample based on the following benchmarks: age, race and ethnicity, and gender. The sample weighting was accomplished using an iterative proportional fitting (IPF) process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results.

The margin of error for this survey is $\pm 2.2\%$. Margins of error are typically calculated on probability-based samples and are not technically correct for non-probability online samples. We supply them here to provide a general assessment of error ranges that may be associated with the data.

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About College Pulse

College Pulse is an online survey and analytics company dedicated to understanding the attitudes, preferences, and behaviors of today's college students. College Pulse offers custom data-driven marketing and research solutions, utilizing its unique Undergraduate Student Panel that includes 240,000 undergraduate college student respondents from more than 800 four-year colleges and universities in all 50 states.

For more information, visit <https://collegepulse.com>