

Employment: Many sources on campus often overlooked when job-hunting

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The leisure and hospitality sector, and temporary work are two of the biggest sources of summer employment for students, according to Duy.

The wages for these jobs are between \$7.25 and \$10 per hour, according to Duy.

"You're looking at the lower end of the wage range," he said.

However, Duy points out that the leisure and hospitality sector includes restaurant wait staffs and other occupations that traditionally receive tips.

"If it's a job with good tips, that could be significantly more," Duy said.

Also, many students benefit from flexible schedules offered by temporary agencies.

"I think the temporary agencies are often overlooked as sources of summer employment," Duy said.

Duy said he applied with a temporary agency when he was in college.

"I was working the next day," he said. "If you're just looking to make money, it's not a bad way to go."

Temporary positions are available in a variety of fields including industrial, packaging and clerical work, according to local Selectemp branch manager Michelle Swancutt.

"The more open you are to trying different things, the more success you're going to have — you'll have more opportunities," she said.

Temporary opportunities are especially available in the summer when many regular workers take their vacations. However, some student workers find temporary swing shift opportunities during the regular school year.

And though temporary work doesn't provide a consistent number of hours or a consistent wage rate, it still allows workers to take home a weekly paycheck and collect benefits, Swancutt said.

Going through a temporary agency also gives a potential worker access to opportunities that may not be advertised to the general public.

Temporary agencies generally require that applicants have at least some work experience, have no felony convictions and can pass a drug test.

Duy suggested that increased drug testing could be a part of the difficulty some employers have in finding qualified applicants.

"There does seem to be anecdotal evidence that increased drug testing could have an impact," Duy said.

Swancutt says she hasn't noticed this effect in her agency.

"I haven't seen our drug use go up any more than it always has been," she said. "I mean, we live in Eugene."

On the hunt

Tina Haynes, career librarian at the University's Career Center, said the first step for students still looking for work should be to log on to the Career Center's Web site and sign up for UO-JobLink.

UO-JobLink is the free job search tool available only to University students and alumni through the Career Center.

"We encourage all students to sign on and register with us," Haynes said.

The site has a listing of full-time, part-time, temporary and seasonal jobs as well as information on internships.

"Most of them typically are in the local area here," Haynes said.

Haynes suggests checking the site regularly because the listings are constantly changing. On Tuesday, a position was filled within 15 minutes of its posting on UO-JobLink, said Haynes.

"That is the magic and the beauty and the convenience of the Internet," she said.

Haynes echoed the idea that temporary jobs — many of which are listed on UO-JobLink — are often good opportunities for students.

"They allow a little flexibility," said Haynes, who suggested that some students don't want to work through the whole summer.

Haynes also said the Oregon Employment Department is an often overlooked resource for job hunters.

The OED's Web site also offers an online listing of jobs categorized by type and location.

Haynes warned that the OED's Web site does not specifically target students, while the employers who post jobs on UO-JobLink are specifically looking for college students.

The most important thing, Haynes said, is to have a creative job-search strategy. A diligent searcher must use more than one resource and be willing to network in the community rather than simply applying for jobs



Keely Connell, right, interviews Lawson Williams in order to find him a new job. Williams has already done mill work and market research through Selectemp Employment Services over the last month.

TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTO EDITOR

that are advertised.

Haynes suggested contacting employers directly, especially bigger employers such as government agencies, which often have more openings and opportunities.

"I think the classifieds are very limited," she said. "It's definitely a viable resource, but I think it would be my least recommended."

Haynes said students having trouble finding work are welcome to stop by the Career Center on the second floor of Hendricks Hall in order to make an appointment with a career counselor.

Career counselors can help with job search strategy, resumé construction and advice on how to dress for and speak in interviews.

Haynes said students sometimes prefer to work on campus for convenience. She specifically mentioned the EMU, University Housing and the UO Bookstore as campus

locations that frequently hire students regardless of whether they have work study.

UO Bookstore human resources manager Natalie Eggert said most of the store's employees are students.

"We do employ a lot of students and give them flexible schedules," Eggert said.

Also, during the bookstore rush at the beginning of each term, they often need temporary help.

However, because summer is the slow season for the store, Eggert says she is mainly looking for employees who are willing to stay on during the regular school year.

"We don't really hire people who are looking for work only in the summer because it's just not worth it for us," she said.

Attitude is one of the most important qualities for a potential UO Bookstore employee, Eggert said.

"What we like to see more than experience, really, is someone who we think will provide a good customer service experience," she said. "We can train them to run a cash register."

UO Bookstore employees say they enjoy the opportunity to work near campus with their peers and the employee discount on their books and supplies, according to Eggert.

"We're a little surprised that the jobs are still coming in," Haynes said. She estimates that six new job postings come in to UO-JobLink per day.

"If you're looking for a job for the summer, there are some people who have a three-week head start on you," Duy said.

Duy said students still looking for work will probably have to be less selective in the types of jobs they take.


"Beggars can't be choosers," he said.

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ONLINE RESOURCES

Career Center
uocareer.uoregon.edu

Oregon Employment Department
www.employment.oregon.gov



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