



Gaining Experience (and Skills) This Summer Outside of Paid Work

Didn't manage to find a job this summer? Worried about how that might affect your future job search? There are a variety of ways you can continue to build on your fantastic skill set as well as gain some additional skills!

What Are My Skills?

Skills can typically be split into 2 categories: Hard Skills and Soft Skills.

- Hard Skills are typically gained through practice, repetition, and education. This can include any additional spoken languages, technical skills, or specific skills learned through your coursework.
- Soft Skills, sometimes known as 'people skills', are personal attributes that can help you be successful in the world of work. These can include communication, leadership, or teamwork.

Having trouble thinking of what your skills might be? Try this [skills worksheet](#) to gain some ideas!

Volunteering:

- Virtual Volunteering is still possible this summer! Volunteering is a great way to learn more about an organization, company, or issue that you care about. You can learn about how that issue or challenge can tie into your future career path.
- Get in touch with organizations that interest you to see if they are taking summer volunteers.
- Not sure where to start? Try [volunteer.ca](#) to browse some virtual opportunities.

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC):

- These are skill-building programs that range from a few weeks to a few months to complete. They are typically structured where you can finish at your own pace and can receive a certificate of completion. These can be great to add to your resume/LinkedIn!
- MOOCs widely vary in price, but [LinkedIn Learning](#) is a great free resource that UofG students have access to.

Creating Your Own Project:

- Have an idea for a way to improve your community? What's a challenge you've been looking to solve or contribute a solution to? Summer can be a great time to chip away at or finish a project you've been thinking about!
- What are your friends specific skill sets? Consider inviting them to help with a project you had in mind. Don't forget to endorse them on LinkedIn for their skills and have them do the same for you!

Preparing for the Fall Term or Your Next Job Search:

- Look over job descriptions for roles that pique your interest. What do they have in common? What skills are you noticing? Consider taking some time this summer to build on those skills specifically.
- Research [careers](#), opportunities, and [trends](#). What companies, organizations, and challenges interest you? Find people working in roles, companies, and organizations that interest you and start a conversation. This could be family friends, or even [UofG alumni!](#)

Remember: one step at a time. Just 10 minutes of skill building adds up to dozens of hours by the end of the summer.