



student  
actuaries  
michigan



International Students Career Workshop

F23





# Agenda Items

Sponsorship & Work Authorization



Career Fair Preparation & Applications



Resume and Interview Tips



Networking & Soft Skills



Questions asked by you!



1.

# Sponsorship & Work Authorization

Fresh

Full-Time · Internship

# University Relations Actuarial Intern



Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans in Illinois, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

On-site · Chicago, IL and 1 more

## About the role

Application deadline	Posted date	Seasonal role
December 31, 2023 1:00 AM	September 1, 2023	(6/3/24 - 8/9/24)
Company division	Location type	US work authorization
University Relations	On-site	Required



Apply Externally

Your work authorization does not match what is requested for this job. If this information is incorrect, please update it [here](#).

[Handshake](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

## Summer Intern - Actuarial

Core Specialty Insurance Holdings, Inc. · Chicago, IL (On-site) 9 hours ago · 11 applicants

- Full-time · Internship
- 501-1,000 employees · Insurance
- 1 school alum works here
- Actively recruiting

Apply

Save

## About the job

COME GROW WITH US!

Core Specialty Summer Internship Program

Core Specialty Insurance is the perfect place to launch your career with our Core Specialty Summer Intern program! This is an exciting and hands-on internship program for university juniors and seniors that are looking to gain industry leading experience.

## Qualifications

- Must be actively pursuing a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Actuarial Science, Mathematics, Statistics, or related field
- Passed at least one Actuarial Exam
- Basic Excel experience
- Interest in insurance industry
- Knowledge of actuarial exam process
- Strong organization and communication skills
- Must be able to work in the U.S. without future sponsorship



You match some of Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans in Illinois, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas's candidate preferences

Employers are more likely to interview you if you match these preferences:

- ✓ GPA
- ✓ Majors
- ✓ School Year
- ✗ U.S. Work authorization

Fresh

Full-Time · Internship

## 2024 Actuarial Internship Program



**Liberty Mutual Insurance**

On-site · Boston, MA and 4 more

### About the role

Application deadline	Posted date	Seasonal role
<b>January 1, 2024 12:00 AM</b>	<b>September 6, 2023</b>	<b>(5/20/24 - 8/30/24)</b>
Estimated pay	Company division	Location type
<b>\$20.00-30.00 per hour</b>	<b>Actuarial</b>	<b>On-site</b>
US work authorization		
<b>Not required</b>		



**Apply Externally**

### You match all of Liberty Mutual Insurance's candidate preferences

Employers are more likely to interview you if you match these preferences:

- ✓ GPA
- ✓ School Year
- ✓ Majors

Employer does not require work authorization.

Full-Time · Internship

## Actuarial Summer Intern



**Penn Mutual**

Remote · Global

### About the role

Application deadline	Posted date	Seasonal role
<b>December 1, 2023 12:00 AM</b>	<b>August 23, 2023</b>	<b>(5/20/24 - 8/9/24)</b>
Estimated pay	Location type	US work authorization
<b>\$20.00-30.00 per hour</b>	<b>Remote</b>	<b>Accepts OPT/CPT</b>

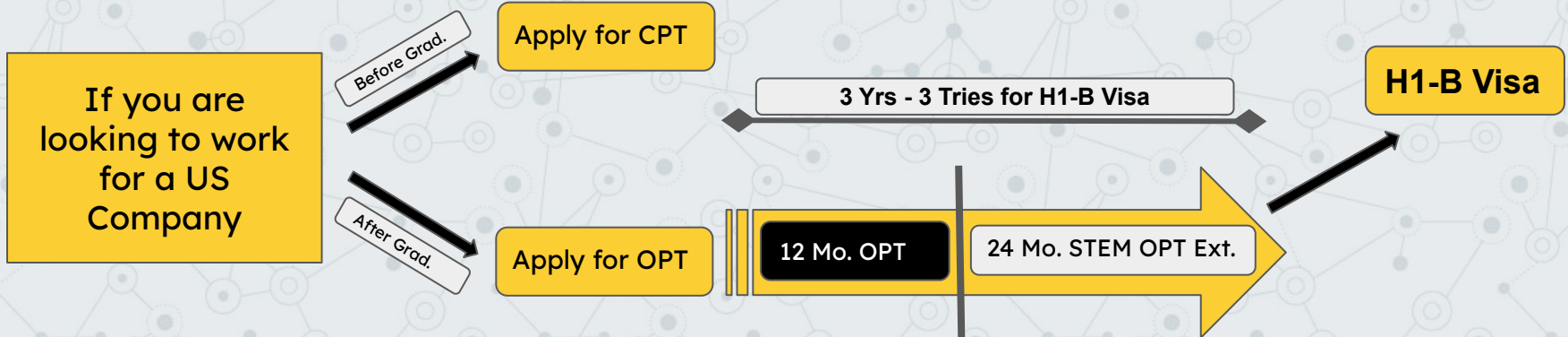
## What Is Work Authorization/Sponsorship & Why Should I Care?

- **Official permission** granted by the US Government to '**Foreign Nationals**' to work Full-time/Intern in the US
- **Governing Authority: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)**
- **Sponsorship** refers to your employer's obligation to **file a petition on your behalf** (H1-B)
- Companies that **do not sponsor** for work authorization are highly likely to **not move forward** with your application for Internships/Full-time Jobs

# Types of Work Visas for F-1 Students & Key Differences



- **F-1 CPT (Curricular Practical Training):** Pre-Graduation Internship; Tot. **12 Months**
- **F-1 OPT (Optional Practical Training):** Post-Graduation Internship/Full Time; Tot. **12 Months**
  - **STEM OPT Extension (Science, Technology, Mathematics, Engineering):** Extension to the OPT; **+24 Months**
- **H1-B (Full-time Employment Based):** Lottery System - **3 Tries** - Company applies each year on your behalf



## Two Important Questions On Job Applications



Are you currently eligible to work in the United States of America? (F-1, J-1, H1-B, O-1, L-1)

**Yes!**



Will you, now or in the future, require visa sponsorship to continue working in the United States?

**Yes!**



## Eligibility Criteria for CPT and OPT

### To be Eligible for CPT, you must:

- ❖ Have been lawfully enrolled on a full-time basis while physically present in the US **for one academic year (i.e. two full terms)** unless your academic program requires immediate participation for all students.
- ❖ Be in lawful **F-1 status**
- ❖ Have U-M approved **health insurance**
- ❖ Have a **job offer** that is **directly related** to your area of study
- ❖ **Not** be enrolled in an **intensive English language training program**

## Eligibility Criteria for CPT and OPT

### To be Eligible for OPT, you must:

- ❖ Have been in full-time student status for **at least one academic year** by the requested start date of your OPT
- ❖ Be maintaining valid **F-1 status** at the time of the application
- ❖ Have U-M approved **health insurance**
- ❖ Have a **job offer** that is **directly related** to your area of study
- ❖ Have **not** used OPT at the **same degree level** previously.

## Application Information and Links

<b>CPT</b>	<b>OPT</b> <i>(apply via IC and USCIS)</i>	<b>OPT STEM extension</b>
<p>CPT authorization takes <b>1-2 weeks</b> for the IC to process; Total processing time ~ <b>1 Month</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>UofM CPT for F-1 Students All Instructions &amp; Documents Required</u></a></p>	<p>No more than <b>90 days before the program end date</b> and no more than <b>60 days after program end date</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>UofM OPT for F-1 Students All Instructions &amp; Documents Required</u></a></p>	<p>Apply as early as <b>90 days before OPT end date</b> but <b>not after end date</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>UofM STEM OPT Extension for F-1 Students All Instructions &amp; Documents Required</u></a></p>

An Exercise You Should Definitely Do!



Please complete this course thoroughly and take notes on all the documents you need to have ready as soon as you get an internship/full-time offer!

[UofM CPT Online Certification Course](#)



2.

# Pre-Career Fair Preparation

## Actuarial Career Expo Reminder!!

**Date:** Thursday, September 21st, 12:00 p.m. - 3 p.m.

**Venue:** The Michigan Union (2nd Floor), Rogel Ballroom

**Handshake Link:** [2023 Actuarial Career Expo](#)

**Related Reminders:**

- Resume Office Hours: Tuesday, September 12th : [Sign up here](#)
- Mock Interviews Sign-Up: Sept 14th-15th & 18th-20th : [Sign up here](#)
- Career fair Coffee Chats: Sunday, Sept 17th, 11am-1pm: Math Atrium

## #1: Target a list of companies you'd like to approach!

### ★ Track your applications:

- Helps organize multiple applications during the recruitment season
- Helps you keep track of information about the role gathered before/after the career fair - Comes in handy for “Why this role & why us?” behavioral questions
- [SAM Sample Recruitment Tracker](#)

## List of Companies at Career Fair (Green - Willing to Sponsor; Yellow - Case by case)

- ❖ Allianz Life
- ❖ AmeriHealth Caritas
- ❖ Aon - Aon Services
- ❖ Auto-Owners Insurance Co.
- ❖ Blue Cross Blue Shield
- ❖ Cigna Group
- ❖ Core Specialty Insurance
- ❖ CSAA Insurance Group
- ❖ CVS Health
- ❖ Deloitte - Consulting
- ❖ Emergent Holdings
- ❖ EY LLP - Consulting
- ❖ Florida Blue (BCBS Florida)
- ❖ Health Alliance Plan
- ❖ Humana
- ❖ Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- ❖ Jackson
- ❖ Mercer
- ❖ Milliman FRM
- ❖ Milliman CMH Health
- ❖ Milliman Indianapolis Health
- ❖ New York Life
- ❖ Northwestern Mutual
- ❖ WTW (Willis Towers Watson)



## Some Helpful Resources to Research Company Sponsorships

- ❖ [SAM Actuarial Employers H1-B Visa Sponsorship Internal DB](#)
- ❖ H1-B Sponsoring Companies Online Databases:
  - [USCIS Datahub](#)
  - [myVisaJobs.com](#)
  - [H1B Grader](#)
- ❖ For CPT/OPT Providing Companies:
  - **Check job postings** on Handshake/Linkedin for sponsorship status
  - If employer is willing to sponsor H1-B, it is a good indicator!

**A Tip:** Apply through the company's website! Cross-check listing w/ Handshake

## #2: Practice Conversational Introduction - The Elevator Pitch!

### ★ What is an Elevator Pitch?

- A short 1-min introduction of yourself that helps employers understand who you are as a professional
- Sparks interest and furthers conversation!
- Tailoring pitch to situation showcases **relevance** and **leaves a good impression**

## #2: Practice Conversational Introduction - The Elevator Pitch!

### ★ Components of an Elevator Pitch:

- Name, Major & University
- Professional fields you're interested in/hoping to work in
- Previous Internships or work experience & Campus involvements (relevant to situation)
- Exclaim interest in **that specific role** & Follow-up question after introduction

## Sample Elevator Pitch Structure: (Max 1.5 Mins)

Hello! My name is XYZ and I'm majoring in Actuarial Mathematics & {mention other majors/minors} here at Michigan. Throughout my time at Michigan I've developed an interest to work in the Actuarial profession as it combines my interest in Math, Finance and Computer Science and is a constantly evolving field. (Mention any other reason in short if not this one)

I have worked as an {XYZ position} at {ABC Company} {mention previous internships/work experience} which, I believe helped me gain a solid grasp on {Mention technical & soft skills learnt}. On campus, I serve as {mention campus involvements} and I have worked on {mention any projects in-brief}

I have applied to the {mention position for that company} and I'd love to know more about {internship program} and your personal experience within the field and {company's name}

### #3: Practice Small Talk!

- The Actuarial Career fair is typically never crowded so **you can have a great conversation with every recruiter!**
- Talk to them about the **specific lines of businesses** the company is involved in, **past projects** they have worked on, new trends in the industry
- Ask them about **why they chose to work at the company** and **what they love** about it!
- **Engage in conversation!!** Add tidbits from your personal experiences/knowledge or learnings from classes to add substance to the conversation
- Ask to drop off your resume in their resume pile!
- **End on a positive note!!** Even if you're a Freshman ask them for their contact information and network with them!

## Career Fair Preparation Recap:

- ❖ Prepare a targeted Employer list and research the companies!
- ❖ Have a conversational introduction ready! Practice your Elevator Pitch
- ❖ Practice Small Talk! Ask them about the industry, company, personal experiences
- ❖ Prepare questions ahead of time!!
- ❖ Ask them for their contact information/business card so you can contact them later and network!

**Questions so far?**



3.

# Resume and Interview Tips

### ★ ACR Format is essential

- Action, Context, Result: What you did -> In What context was it done/What was the underlying situation -> What was the result (Quantify as much as possible)
- [Resume Action Verbs](#)
- Review the [Resume Workshop Slides](#)
- Review the sample Resumes on the website: [Workshops](#) -> Resume Workshop -> Freshman/Sophomore/Junior/Senior sample resumes
- Please get in touch with me or any one on E-board for resume advice



## Including International Experiences on Resume:

- ★ Be **Selective** in what you include in the Resume! (Choose experiences that translate well into the role of an Actuary)
  - **Technical Skills:** Some examples are Excel, Python, R, SQL, PowerPoint, MS Office, VBA Macros, etc.
  - **Soft Skills:** Professional Communication, Leadership, Working in a team, Taking initiative in something
  - 50-60% of the primary role an Actuary performs is **communicating technical concepts to stakeholders** that aren't from an Actuarial/Math/Statistics background
  - Capitalize on this!! Sell yourself as an excellent communicator/translator!
  - Eg: **Teaching** is a great communication skill. If you have taught a group of people before, mention that!

## Preparation before the Interview:



Practice Common Interview Questions



Prepare Questions for the Recruiter

# Common Interview Questions - Behavioral and Technical Questions

## Behavioral Questions

- Help the interviewer **make value judgements** on your **skills & competencies**
- Help probe for **specific information on past experiences**; fishing for **your character** as an individual in a **professional setting**
- Most look for a candidate that **makes the most of a situation they are in, lead by example, resolve conflict** and make sure **processes run smoothly**

## Technical Questions

- Show the interviewer **your technical competencies** as seen on the resume
- Can include questions **based on exams you have passed, softwares used, concepts learnt in classes or past internships**
- Explanations must be clear, concise and engaging

## Preparation before the Interview: Behavioral Questions

### ★ Common Behavioral Questions:

- **Introductory:**
  - Tell me a little bit about yourself
  - Walk me through your resume
  - Can you reflect on {XYZ} experience? What did you do and learn?
- **Specific Situations:**
  - Tell me about a time you worked in a team
  - Tell me about a time you had a disagreement with a colleague/teammate, how did you handle it?
  - Tell me about a time you lead a project/team
- **Questions about the company:**
  - Why this profession? Why this position in specific?
  - Why this company?

## Preparation before the Interview: Behavioral Questions

### ★ How to answer behavioral questions:

- **Adopt the STAR format:**
  - **Situation:** Describe what the situation was in detail, make sure it can be understood by someone who hasn't been in that position before
  - **Task:** What was the task assigned to you/what was your role and position
  - **Action:** What was the action you took to advance the task at hand/resolve the situation
  - **Result:** What was the outcome of your actions and efforts (Quantify if possible), END ON A POSITIVE NOTE!!

**PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE!!**

## Preparation before the Interview: Technical Questions

### ★ Commonly asked technical questions:

- **Explain a concept** to me from Exam P/FM/(any exam you have passed)
- **Market Sizing/Brain teaser Questions:**

How many gas stations are there in the United States? Walk me through the steps you would go through to **estimate** this.

(Or)

**Estimate** the total number of cars in the United States

- Describe a project you have done using Excel Pivot Tables/Python Pandas Data frames library/ SQL querying
- Brainteasers: If you have 500ml & 300ml containers, how would you measure out 400ml?

## Preparation before the Interview: Ask Questions to the Recruiter

- ★ **Interviewers will ask if you have any questions for them at the end of the interview:**
  - Opportunity to further conversation, **make yourself stand out**
- ★ **Questions you can ask:**
  - Ask them about their **personal experience with the company** - How did they end up there? What attracted them to the company?
  - What are some **recent initiatives taken by the company** to innovate in the field?
  - What **qualities have they witnessed in successful candidates** in the internship?

## Preparation before the Interview: Some General Tips

- **Don't let accents come in the way of presenting your best self!**
  - **Ask for clarification** if you don't understand the 1st time
  - Practice talking in a **slow, articulate manner** with hand gestures and tonality (changes in tone)
  - Don't panic and stay **confident when explaining** something
  - Don't overextend your attention by trying to read the interviewer's body language, **focus on communicating**
  - Treat it like an informal **conversation with a professional!!**

**REMEMBER:** Treat the interview as an exchange between you and the interviewer





4.

# Networking & Soft Skills

## Networking: Reach out!!

- ❖ Networking is crucial in developing your understanding of the industry, career, and building connections within the space
  - Make a **detailed profile on LinkedIn** and reach out to U-M Alumni!
  - **Attend company information sessions** - understand the company, opportunities and meet the recruiters in person!
  - Reach out to **SAM Alumni**

## Networking: Reach out!!

### Sample LinkedIn cold reach out:

Hello {Name of the Person}. I hope the message finds you well.

My name is XYZ and I'm a {class standing: freshman/soph/juni} at U-Michigan studying {Major}. I noticed that you {mention why you are interested to talk to them}. I'm interested to learn more about ABC. Would you be open to a quick call sometime this week/soon? I'd love hear about your experiences and gather some advice!

Thank you for your time and consideration. Hope you have a great day!

## Soft Skills: Enhance your communication skills

- ❖ Speak up in class and **participate in discussions!**
- ❖ **Make presentations!** Present to a group of friends or club members as often as possible!!
- ❖ Take some communication courses and attend workshops on improving communication skills
- ❖ **Participate in student organizations!**
  - Helps build your professional persona, gives you a reason to **present regularly** and **work in teams**
  - Great resume booster! Showcases your **leadership skills**
  - Participating in orgs affiliated with different schools make you an **all-round candidate**

**If communicating your ideas effectively becomes second nature, interviews and networking gets significantly easier!**



4.

Questions from you  
guys!

Questions from you guys!



**What do you do as an Actuarial Intern?  
What does the Internship typically look like?**

Questions from you guys!



**How does passing exams affect my job search  
in the US?**

Questions from you guys!



**How to tailor your resume for different companies?**