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Senior
Majors: English-Writing and Biology
Internship Site: The Post Standard

Currently, I am interning at Syracuse's newspaper The Post-Standard. I chose this internship to improve my writing and editing skills and continue to develop other skills I already used on school newspapers and magazines. It was close to home as well, which allowed me to also work a full-time job since the internship is unpaid.

Journalism internships are typically unpaid and right now The Post Standard is downsizing and offering employees buyout packages in hopes of reducing the workforce. At a time when fewer and fewer people are reading newspapers, one can't expect a paid internship. This has reinforced my goal to get a job after graduation at a magazine instead. The people I've been working with have put me on tasks that will help me toward this end.

This experience has been worth the late hours at the copy desk where I create headlines for the news pages, business pages, and auto pages; write the summary decks for articles; add formatting such as paragraphing and bolding of websites to stories; cut-down articles from news wires so they fit on the page; and proof those pages already laid-out for the paper. I also help design the auto and business pages where I find photos, place them on the page and format the text so everything fits and looks good to the eye.

My supervisor and the staff I've been working with are all very nice and willing to answer all of my questions. Sadly, because of the buyouts many of them have or are in the process of leaving but they have promised to provide me with good recommendations to help me with obtaining jobs at magazines and elsewhere.

My advice to everyone is to find an internship where you can use and improve skills you have already or where you can learn ones that will help you on your career path. Be sure to let your supervisor know that you want as much real job experience as you can get so you can be prepared for what the career is really like.