



# Women's Studies Career & Internship Search Process

## Learn from a Women's Studies Alumna.

**Laurie Dion Johnson** ('02)

**Majors:** Women's Studies & English

**Job Title:** Business Analyst

**Employer:** Signature Sales, Inc.

### Job/Internship Experience(s):

Editorial Internship, McGraw-Hill Publishers; National Sales & Marketing Coordinator, Meadowbrook Press; Senior Business Analyst - Target Corp.

### How Women's Studies Prepared

**Me for My Career:** My women's studies courses prepared me well to work in merchandising and marketing. Right now I am working for a company that sells products to Target, and knowing the female guest is vital to knowing how to market to Target's key demographic.

### General Process for Finding An Internship:

I did a lot of networking to find all of my jobs and internships. People make the best resources, and fellow Oles and coworkers have always led me to my next job choices. I also did a lot of informational interviews while in school, and during each position, so that I was always aware of what jobs were available to someone of my education/qualifications.

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## Look through current Interim job postings!

Log on to [Ole Recruiting](#)

- Select "Jobs and Internships" → "St. Olaf Posted Opportunities" along the top menu
- Use the Position Type, Job Function, and Keywords boxes to tailor your search

Also search the **Liberal Arts Career Network Job & Internship Database** by clicking on "Jump To" → "LACN Job & Internship Database" along the top menu

- Select "Jobs and Internships" along the top menu
- Use the Position Type, Job Function, and Keywords boxes to tailor your search

## Find out what past Women's Studies majors and concentrators are doing now!

Log on to the [Online Alumni Directory](#)

- Do a search by major
- Contact alums who are doing something of interest and request an [informational interview](#) (Nearly 70% of all Interim internships are obtained through students' [networking](#) efforts.)

## How do I go about contacting alumni?

Email a [letter of inquiry](#)

Prepare [questions to ask](#) during your informational interview

Prepare your [resume](#) (This is often asked for during the networking process)

## Find out where Oles have interned in the past!

Check out [Internship Directories by Major](#)

- Look at the websites of the organizations listed
- Find some organizations of interest
- Type them into the [Online Alumni Directory](#) to see if any Oles currently work there

## Search Jobs and Internships by Area of Interest.

Access multiple on-line internship and job search banks and organizations based on your field(s) of interest.

## Utilize Online Video Workshops.

Access multiple online video workshops to help in your job and internship search.

## What Can I Do With A Women's Studies Major?

Find out about common career areas and employers of Women's Studies majors.

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## Laurie Dion Johnson (cont.)

**Most Useful Resources:** I did a lot of research online to find my internship, and I also worked with Career Services while at St. Olaf. Once I met people who worked somewhere that interested me, I contacted a number of individuals in that organization.

### Advice for Current Women's Studies Majors/Concentrators :

Network, network, network. Oftentimes employers don't realize there are positions that need to be filled until they find the right person to fill a void they didn't realize they had.

### Contact Information:

[ldion4@yahoo.com](mailto:ldion4@yahoo.com);  
[ljohnson@signalsales.net](mailto:ljohnson@signalsales.net)

## Connect with other Women's Studies Alumni on the Online Alumni Directory.

### Laura A. Durden ('08)

**Majors:** Women's Studies & Poli. Sci.  
**Job Title:** English Teacher  
**Employer:** Peace Corps

### Sarah M. Varner ('03)

**Majors:** Women's Studies & English  
**Job Title:** Editor  
**Employer:** Priority Publications

### Megan Christine Fredrickson ('00)

**Majors:** Biology, Psych. & Women's St.  
**Job Title:** Director of Operations  
**Employer:** James Ray International

### Michelle J. Trotter-Mathison ('00)

**Majors:** Women's St. & Psychology  
**Job Title:** Mental Health Provider  
**Employer:** University of Minnesota

## Use Job Shadowing to test drive a career and make internship connections!

Spend a few hours, a day, or several days on-site shadowing a specific professional or group of professionals within an organization. Shadowing is a great opportunity to learn more about a company, career, related positions, or the job market in a specific industry or geographic region. You can also use it to get advice on strategies for pursuing a particular job or career path and to make connections/get referrals for people to contact about potential jobs, internships, or more job shadowing!

[Learn more about the approach, who to contact, and how to prepare.](#)

## How do I apply for an Academic Internship?

Internships can count for academic credit. To learn more about the requirements, deadlines, and registration process, visit the following websites:

- [Domestic Academic Internship Webpage](#)
- [International Academic Internship Webpage](#)

### Domestic Academic Internship Deadlines:

Fall/Interim/Spring: Registrar's last day to add a semester-length course  
Summer: June 1st

### International Academic Internship Deadlines:

Interim/Spring: All paperwork due to CEL by November 1<sup>st</sup>  
Summer: All paperwork due to CEL by April 1st

**IMPORTANT: Earlier deadlines apply for international academic internships!**

## How do I fund an unpaid Internship?

St. Olaf provides many resources to help you fund an unpaid internship.

Check out the [Undergraduate Scholarships Webpage](#) to view a list of scholarships and grants available for Fall, Interim, Spring and Summer Internships.

Also visit the [Tips on Funding Unpaid Experiential Opportunities Webpage](#) for more grants, scholarships, fellowships and fundraising opportunities.



### Professional Associations.

Explore and network with professionals in your field of interest by joining a professional association.



### International Internships.

A list of Ole intern sites across the globe, with links to the organizations.



### Ole Alums Gone Global.

These alumni are interested in connecting with current students and have provided their contact information.