CBS Pre-Health Opportunities Fair Student FAQs and Quick Tips

GETTING ORIENTED

- The purpose this is fair is to learn about opportunities and introduce yourself to organizations to build an ongoing relationship that might lead to future involvement with these organizations.
- Familiarize yourself with the floor plan and identify which organizations you’d like to speak with today.
- Consider speaking with other organizations before connecting with your top choices to feel more confident.
- When you approach an organization representative, give a firm handshake, make eye contact, smile, and introduce yourself. Expect to spend 3-5 minutes talking with organization representatives, and remember to share the space with other students.
- Have a quick question about all this? Stop by the CBS Student Services Career Coaching and Q&A Table

INTRODUCING YOURSELF

A great formula for introducing yourself is the Present/Past/Future model

PRESENT: Share your Name, Major, and Year in school.

PAST: Share something you have done related to your preparation for the experience the organization is offering such as research, volunteering, or a campus job.

FUTURE: Share something that interests you about this organization or your general career or academic interests (why you’ve decided to connect with this organization)

ASK: This is the time to ask questions about the experience or support the organization is providing to determine if this organization’s opportunities or services would be a good fit for you.

ASKING QUESTIONS

Think about asking questions that will help you learn more about the organization, the experience they are offering to students, and whether this organization would be a good fit for you. Some examples include:

1. Clinically-related Opportunities: What types of interactions with healthcare professionals or patients will undergraduate students get to gain in your experience?
2. Community Organizations: What types of responsibilities will an undergraduate volunteer in your organization get to have, and what type of weekly or monthly hour commitment do you expect from volunteers?
3. Research-related Opportunities: What type of science skills or other skills do you look for in undergraduate students looking to contribute to your research?
4. Gap Year Opportunities: How does your organization support students preparing for next steps after completion of your opportunity?
5. What application materials do you require of students applying to your opportunity?
FOLLOWING UP

Make sure to ask for the business card of any representative you speak with today. You’ll want to follow up over the weekend with a short thank you e-mail. **Below is an example, but make sure your email is unique!**

Example Thank You Note:
Dear Ms./Mr./Dr./Mx. (Last name of representative),
It was nice to meet you at the University of Minnesota CBS Pre-Health Opportunities Fair this afternoon. Thank you for taking the time to talk to me about the (Program Name). It was exciting to hear about ____________________________. I also enjoyed learning about...etc

Thank you again for taking the time to talk to me at the fair. I look forward to hearing from you! If you have any further questions I can be contacted at XXX-XXX-XXXX.

Sincerely,
(Your Name)