Company Feedback

If you are seeking an internship or job, please be aware of companies that have questionable interviewing practices (such as asking you to pay upfront fees before you are hired), or who do not clearly state what you will be doing in the job. The best way to avoid a negative experience is to do your research!

Following are some web sites where you can see if there have been negative reports about a company, as well as web sites with tips on how to conduct company research and questions to ask in an interview:

www.ripoffreport.com
http://西部pennsylvania.bbb.org
www.collegegrad.com/jobsearch/Employer-Research-Strategies/
www.quintcareers.com/company_research_questions.html

If you have difficulty finding clear information about what a company does, or if your interviewer is not clearly answering your questions about what you would be doing in the job, proceed with caution!

Following is a list of companies with which students have reported negative experiences, as reported by those students. Feel free to contact us at 724-938-4413 to talk with one of our staff if you have a company that you feel should be added to the list.

Advertising, Marketing or Promotions
Be aware of organizations that include Advertising, Marketing or Promotions in the company name (i.e. ABC Advertising, XYZ Marketing Solutions, or ABC Promotions). These companies usually advertise ENTRY-LEVEL MARKETING POSITIONS FOR RECENT GRADUATES in the newspaper. The positions are usually door-to-door sales, working on a commission-only pay structure with no base salary. Although this is legitimate, students have also reported negative interview experiences with the following companies (see detail below the list):

CA Enterprises
CRC Advertising
College Pro
Crown Marketing
Cynthia Solutions
DeFrancesco Acquisitions, Inc.
DS Max
Executive Marketing Concepts, Inc.
Executive Sports
Granton Marketing
Grotton Advertising
Impact Promotional Group
Ivins Group
Jablon Group
Johnson Marketing Insights, Inc.
JPG Marketing
Leap Productions
Matlin Marketing
Maxwell Marketing
MobShah Group, Inc.
Omega Interactive
One to One Marketing Group
North Star Promotions
Pittsburgh Events
PRS Advertising
Scott Marketing Solutions
Steel City Promotions
Summit Advance Marketing
Sunrise Marketing Solutions
Top Flight Advertising
Triad Promotions
Valed Group
Victory Promotions

Here is a report that a Career Advisor from Gannon University received from one of their students:

“I had an interview with PRS Advertising. The first interview went well and the position sounded good. The second interview was in Pittsburgh; the interviewer had me leave my car at the office (I was not clear on what I was about to do), then dropped me off in a Pittsburgh neighborhood and told me that I had one of two options. One, work (doing door-to-door sales) until 8:00pm or two, find my way back to my car on my own.”

Another report:
“I had an initial interview with The Valed Group back in March and after the interview I was supposed to come back for a job shadow on May 5th. I would be shadowing an account executive. The two people that I did end up shadowing were not at all what I expected. I found out that one of them had spent some time in jail. In addition to that they said that I had to drive, because their cars were in the shop but assured me that I would get some gas money after we got some sales.

Once we got to the location, they told me what exactly the job was. The two things they were selling were something from Firestone where you pay $30 for 4 oil changes. The other thing they were selling was something for Dunkin Donuts. They would go up to random people on the streets and go into businesses and offer them these deals. The one thing that I really did not like that they did was they would go into a business and pitch their product. Once they were turned down, they would go into the business next to that and say that the person at the previous business bought some, so they should buy some. I said that it seemed backhanded and did not really agree with that technique. In addition to that, they spent the entire time on their phones talking to their girlfriends or other random people. I mentioned to them that this did not seem like something that I wanted to do. I am not sure who brought it up first, but we ended up going back to the office around 4 instead of 6.

So once we get back to the office, I heard their boss yelling at them and thought to myself “at least I won’t be yelled at.” I was not sure what she was yelling about, as I could not hear. So the second I walk into her office she starts yelling at me about how I called her business shady and how I made the two people I was shadowing leave early. So five minutes later, once she was done yelling at me, I explained my side of the story. After I was done she said she was on my side and the only reason she yelled was because she is a very straight forward and emotional person. After I told her my side of the story, she proceeded to tell me about another position they had to see if I was interested in that one.

This was one of the worst experiences I have ever had with any job, interview, or pretty much anything. I would strongly advise everyone to stay away from the Valed Group.”

Data Corp.
“Data Corp. is an advertising company that has been posting Computer/Internet Operator jobs for college grads. I had to pay a required fee (for a training manual) to further the hiring process. I did some research and was not able to verify the legitimacy of this organization.”
Ivins Group/ExecutiveSports
“I recently had a very bad interview experience with a company called the Ivins Group from Monroeville in 2001. They have a very professional looking website but are mentioned on the Rip-off Report a number of times by current job hunters. There are also positive comments about them in the Rip-off Report.”
www.theivinsgroup.com
Rip-off Report -

Primerica
“During the presentation we were informed that there was a training process we would have to go through as well as having a credit check done to ensure we were not in any “financial bad standing”. Also we would have background checks done as well.
“We were also told that the cost for training and the background and credit checks would be $400 but they would pay for half of it so we would each have to pay $199 IF we were hired.
“At the interview, the interviewer took out a form and said that before I could start anything, that I had to have my clearances taken care of. The form asked for credit card numbers or check verification.
“Interviewer then asked me “Is the $199 a problem tonight?” Being a college student not prepared for this in any way, I definitely did not have the money on me. I politely told him that I didn’t not have that money in my checking account and I didn’t carry my credit cards with me.”

Tuition Painters
University Painters
“I did not get paid, and ended up owing the company money because project costs were underestimated. Be sure to ask questions regarding payment, project cost estimates, etc. when you interview with this company.”

Vector Marketing
“Please consider adding Vector Marketing, sellers of Cutco cutlery, to your list. They advertise here on campus as promising $13.75 base pay for college students, website www.workforstudents.com. They won’t tell you who they are or what they sell until you are accepted, and they require you to pay $100+ upfront for knives to show for door to door selling, and the base pay is a myth. Each "appointment" that you have---each sales pitch---takes at least an hour plus travel time, though the management claims that since each appointment SHOULD only take 20 min, students have to do 3 pitches to make less than $14. The management is also extremely intrusive, calling your cell phone up to 4 times a day to check on you. A few of my friends got scammed by them, and lost money. It seems they make as much profit from their young sales people as they do from actual customers.”