

TDT Promotion / Strategic Planning – Exit Reflection

I was honestly a little worried going into this internship considering I would be the one creating tasks and responsible for keeping myself on track, but I ended up really enjoying this experience and the flexibility I had working on a project I really cared about. With the couple random obstacles that we faced at the start, I felt like my initial research was delayed, but the fact that I had the ability move on to the interview portion and then circle back to the school research was actually very helpful. When I was thrown a problem that was out of my control, like the lack of an official TDT Peer Program list, this experience taught me how to adapt to that and keep moving forward. It was during the interview process that we decided an *official* list of peer schools wasn't really necessary, and I could get what I needed from hearing what colleges current students also applied. I also found that my main mission of this internship shifted and expanded slightly as my work went on. The focus in my initial plans was strictly on the promotion and how we can market ourselves stronger as a department, but as I got further into the interviews, my questions started to naturally shift towards the operational aspects of the major and how those can be expanded. I felt the information I had gathered from the 17 interviews was still very valuable even if it didn't all directly relate to promotion, so I adapted this mission to include more strategic planning opportunities. Especially since so much about our department and industry as a whole is going through serious changes right now, I felt this was as good a time as any to bring up suggestions about both strong and weak points within this program. Since there is so much uncertainty about how Elon as a whole will change next

semester, it's important for us to highlight the most successful aspects of an education in TDT and keep them running to the best of our ability next year.

For future students looking to create a similar internship experience, I truly think that flexibility is the most important thing to keep in mind. Even though it seems like this was an internship where the entire project primarily centered around me, there were still moments when I needed to rely on others and adapt when things didn't go exactly according to plan. That being said, the fact that the project *is* primarily centered around the one student does make it easier to adjust. I would give some warning to others that when conducting a large number of interviews like this, it can be difficult to wrangle people and sometimes you need to be a little pushy to get the numbers you want. I learned that eventually, and after reaching out to individuals, was able to gather everyone I needed. I think this was an incredibly beneficial process for me because it not only gave me a real sense of independence and responsibility for a long-term project, but it gave me a new insight into this program I have worked so hard with over the last three years. I am also glad this wasn't done over my senior year, because now I feel even more prepared and ready to take on some of these challenges in my final year.

Hour Log

Date	# Hours	Action
2/25/20	2	Combing through Elon perf. arts website
3/2/20	1.5	Organize interview times with Juniors and Seniors
3/4/20	2	Create list of interview questions / goals with each one
3/5/20	1.5	Try and sort through Natalie's long list
3/6/20	1	Finalize interview schedule and questions
3/9/20	1	Interview 1
3/10/20	4	Interview 2 and write up 1 and 2 transcript info (1.5 hours each)
3/11/20	3	Interviews 3, 4 and 5
3/12/20	2	Interviews 6 and 7
3/18/20	1.5	Interview 3 write up
3/19/20	1.5	Interview 4 write up
3/26/20	3	Interviews 5 and 6 write up (1.5 hours each)
3/27/20	2	Finalize round 2 interview schedule and questions
3/29/20	30 min	Round 2 interview 1
4/1/20	2.5	Round 2 interviews 2 and 3, "Designing your life NOW" class
4/2/20	1	Round 2 interview 4
4/3/20	1.5	Round 2 interviews 5 and 6
4/7/20	2	Round 2 interviews 1 and 2 writeup
4/8/20	3	Round 2 interviews 3 and 4 writeup
4/9/20	2.5	Round 2 interviews 5 and 6 writeup
4/10/20	1	Creation of peer school list (mostly from where current students also applied crossed with info from Natalie's list)

4/15/20	4	Pepperdine and James Madison research, Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival research
4/16/20	3.5	UNCSA and UMich research
4/17/20	4	Faculty interview schedule planning and question write up, Emerson research, mid-point write up
4/20/20	2	Finalize faculty interview questions, faculty interview 1
4/22/20	1	Faculty interview 2
4/23/20	2.5	Boston University and SCAD research
4/24/20	2.5	Faculty interviews 3 and 4
4/29/20	1.5	Recommendation write up / first summary
5/3/20	1.5	Recommendation list revisions
5/5/20	2	Recommendation list summaries
5/6/20	3	Recommendation list summaries / revisions
5/8/20	1	Interview write up - questions
5/9/20	4	Faculty interviews 1 and 2 write up
5/10/20	1.5	Summary tweaks from Charles
5/12/20	2	Faculty interview 3 write up
5/13/20	2.5	Faculty interview 4 write up
5/15/20	1.5	Final write-up

Total: 80 hours