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Introduction

One of the common misconceptions about the entertainment industry is that you must know someone to get into the business – that you have to be Ron Howard’s daughter or that you have to go to school with Dustin Hoffman’s kids’ babysitter or your mom’s best friend’s daughter had to tutor Carrie Fisher’s child in math.

This is actually not true. If you don’t know a single person in entertainment there is still a way to get into the business – and that is to intern. **And I know this is true because it’s exactly how I broke into the business.**

Interning means working for free or for college credit – and it can be done while you are in high school or college or if you are thinking about switching careers. Interning can introduce you to many aspects of the business that you might not have thought of before as well as get you a job!

I got my start when I was 16 and, trust me, I didn’t know anyone in the business. I cold-called the head of Women In Film at the time, begged her to get me an interview anywhere, and then landed a meeting with Debra Hill of Debra Hill Productions.

On the basis of that one meeting Debra helped get me into NYU’s Summer High School Film School and then she helped me get into NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. After my freshman year at Tisch, I interned for her for the summer, working three days a week doing everything and anything. When I graduated Tisch, she helped me get my first paying entertainment industry job at Endeavor Talent Agency.

If I could do it, so can you. And you don’t need to know anyone to get an internship – **you can position yourself to find the internship you need to help jumpstart your career.**