An Interview with Advanced Technology Group – Missoula Solutions Center
Edited by Emily Pritchard

Kymberly Lund, Staff Consultant at Advanced Technology Group of Missoula, discusses the work that they do and where UM interns fit into the company. “You may be an “intern” though you’re never treated like one! Starting on day one, you’re a consultant. Be ready to drink from the fire hose and to have fun.”

What is Advanced Technology Group?

“Advanced Technology Group (ATG) is a privately held professional management and consulting firm. Our niche service offers centers on leveraging best in class customer care and billing/CRM expertise to support our communications industry-based (telecom/cable/conferencing) and service provider clients. We work with our targeted clients to provide business solutions through strategy, process and program/project implementation to enable them to meet their business critical initiatives.”

Are you considered part of the “Big Data” movement?

“We would not profess ourselves to officially be a big data consultancy; however, any organization working with the types of systems that we work with is inherently part of the “Big Data Movement.” The abundance of data and how it is analyzed and correlated and leveraged to achieve business goals is in the eye of almost any business these days, including our clients, so we’re naturally a part of it.”

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“Having interns at ATG’s Missoula Solution Center (MSC) brings a variety of benefits. A few highlights include increased awareness of ATG amongst top talent at the university, they bring fresh perspective to the business problems we’re working to solve, and it gives us a great opportunity to find and work with potential future full-time employees. This is our second year having an official intern program, the candidate pool was much larger and more competitive this year and we expect that to increase even more next year.”
Roughly, how much time do your student interns work a week? What types of projects do they work on?

“Interns work approximately 18-22 hours per week. Our interns perform independent research projects, provide consultant and client support, and are responsible for the successful delivery of an internal project which spans the duration of their internship. Depending on the project type, interns may be responsible for project planning, requirements gathering, solution build-out, analytics tracking, campaign management, or change management.”

What is the work environment like for a student intern?

“We integrate our interns into our team culture fairly effortlessly. For this class of interns several employees have stated that they “forget that they’re interns.” We treat our interns the same as any other employee and expect the same level of effort and professionalism from them as well. Our office culture fosters a work-hard, play-hard environment with a great mix of serious heads-down work and time for fun and camaraderie as well.”

Does your company provide other opportunities for students, i.e., professional development trainings, research, civic engagement, or global experiences?

“At ATG-MSC, our culture is rooted in learning and growth regardless of age, title or years of experience. The whole team participates in a 2-hour instructor led training every Tuesday and an hour on Thursday—including, of course, our interns. We also provide numerous online resources for education as well as opportunities to shadow other consultants and there is plenty of hands-on learning with the projects and research they do as well as the feedback they get along the way.”
When and how do you generally advertise for interns?

“Our internship is officially posted on Griz eRecruiting which provides information on where to send a resume and cover letter. We take anywhere from 1-3 interns, depending on our talent pool and project demand. We host two Meet & Greet events; one in the fall and one in the spring; that is a great way for anyone interested in ATG to learn more and to meet the team.”

Where can students go for more information?

Visit [www.atginfo.com](http://www.atginfo.com) or email me at kymberly.lund@atginfo.com

Do you have any advice for students seeking internships or other experiences in your field?

“Do not just apply for an internship for the sake of fulfilling credits. Of course, you’re there to learn but also be there to add value. Go into your internship knowing what you want to get out of it and let your desires be known. Don’t be afraid to speak up and ask questions, take full advantage of the experience.”

*UM interns William Devich, Joseph Desch, and Mitch Coyler receiving awards at the end of their internship with ATG*