The Perfect Candidate

*Employers offer advice to students*

Here's what employers would like students to know:

**Do your research:**

- Don't interview if you haven't done your homework - researching the organization before you interview is critical. Employers are interested in candidates who ask intelligent questions and are able to make intelligent conversation based on what they know about the organization. They are equally unimpressed by candidates who know nothing about the company or the position being offered.

**Be prepared:**

- To score additional points, be sure you're prepared for the interview when you arrive. Using the career services office, learning how to articulate your skills, and practicing interview techniques beforehand are excellent ways to ready yourself. You can also get high ratings by brushing up on verbal communication skills, arriving on time, dressing appropriately, and conducting yourself in a professional manner.

**Have a focus:**

- Employers recommend that you base your job search on criteria you develop for jobs and companies. Think about what type of position you're seeking and what type of organization you're interested in, and consider your geographic preference and other related issues.

**Bring experience to the table:**

- Rated very highly by employers, relevant work experience can give you the edge over other candidates. Internships and co-ops are excellent experience builders and can help you "sample" different organizations and opportunities, which will help you focus on the type of job and work environment you want.