One of the best ways to increase the odds of hearing back from a company after applying to one of their openings is to follow up using LinkedIn. With Spring and Summer breaks right around the corner, these can be some ideal times to connect with people using LinkedIn. Here’s how:

1. Update your LinkedIn profile. Include projects and recommendations. Check out tips from LinkedIn.
2. Follow the company on LinkedIn. They notice who follows them! By following them, their content appears in your feed. Companies will often post jobs through their LinkedIn feed.
3. Find UIC Engineering and non-Engineering alumni using LinkedIn.
4. After reviewing these resources, attend our weekly LinkedIn Workshops in SEO 822 from 3-4PM every Tuesday.

Let’s say you have a specific company in mind you’d like to work for. Use the Alumni Tool mentioned in #3 to find graduates of UIC, or your former school if you have multiple degrees, and see who works there. Compare their skills to your own and see where you might need to bulk up.

Many alumni want to help current students - reach out to them for an insider’s perspective. It’s a great way to get your foot in the door.

Try this strategy before applying to jobs to build relationships with companies you’re interested in working for. When connecting with alumni, select “Add a Note” with your invitation request to personalize your message.

This is where you will include your brief elevator pitch customized to the company and the position (must be under 300 characters). Include things such as the position you have applied to (including job number if applicable), or the positions you’re interested in. Include your specific interest(s) in the company. Close with something related to UIC. Remember, this is a UIC alum so there’s some common ground here that you can include in your message.

Even if a position does not pan out in the company that you’re interested in, it’s all about taking the initiative to build more relationships and grow your network.

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