Clark’s model of on-campus student employment treats the student employment experience as a professional development opportunity. While all on-campus positions will vary from entry-level to advanced in the position responsibilities, you will find that there is a lot to gain from the experience. Below are just a few of the benefits of on-campus student employment for your professional aspirations.

1 **Paraprofessional work experience.** On-campus student employment “counts” as a professional work experience when you begin applying for job opportunities off-campus, and will certainly be one of the key positions featured on your résumé. In fact, according to a recruiter at a national employer, student employment is the first thing they look for when making a hiring decisions because it shows that students understand a professional work environment, what it means to be a good employee, and have an understanding of customer service skills. 

⇒ *Take the time to understand your job description and position responsibilities so you can make sure these are well-represented on future job applications.*

2 **Work begets work.** Employers are more likely to hire those who are already employed as it speaks to a job candidate’s employability and ability to succeed in a professional work environment. Having an on-campus student employment position on your résumé indicates to future employers that you have the early professional work experience to understand the needs of the business, your role in the organization, and how your responsibilities contribute to the larger goal of the business.

⇒ *Take the time to talk to your supervisor about how your position contributes to the larger operations of their office.*

3 **Professional reference.** If you do your job well and communicate and behave in a professional manner, your on-campus supervisor will likely be happy to serve as a reference for future job opportunities. This is important as most employers require at least three professional references, and many college students struggle to identify that many who know them well and can speak to their professional attributes.

⇒ *Take the time to talk about your professional interests with your supervisor and get to know them so they are able to provide a strong reference when the time comes.*

4 **Skill building.** On-campus student employment positions offer the opportunity for students to gain real, usable skills that are highly transferable to other positions, like customer service, advanced Microsoft Word and Excel, and experience with social media and print marketing, among others.

⇒ *Make sure you understand the skills you will be gaining from your student employment experience, and look for opportunities to expand your skill set within the context of your position.*