**BE A SMART JOB SEEKER AND AVOID ONLINE FRAUD!**

Online scam artists take advantage of people looking for jobs to try and get them to apply for fake jobs or pay money for false job leads.

Students, in particular, must keep a close eye out for possible scams, phishing schemes, or fraudulent employers.

Please pay close attention to job postings to look for the following red flags or warning signs:

* You are requested to provide your credit card, bank account numbers, or other personal financial documentation.
* The employer has a contact email address that is not a primary domain. For example, the posting lists the company name as “Omega International” but they provide a Yahoo! email address.
* The position requires an initial investment, such as a payment by wire service or courier.
* The posting includes many spelling and grammatical errors.
* The position initially appears as a traditional job but upon further research, it sounds more like an independent contractor opportunity.
* You are offered a large payment or reward in exchange for allowing the use of your bank account (often for depositing checks or transferring money).
* You receive an unexpectedly large check (checks are typically slightly less than $500, generally sent or deposited on Fridays).
* You are asked to provide a photo of yourself.
* The position is for any of the following: Envelope Stuffers, Home-based Assembly Jobs, Online Surveys.
* The posting neglects to mention what the responsibilities of the job actually are. Instead, the description focuses on the amount of money to be made.
* The employer responds to you immediately after you submit your resume. Typically, resumes sent to an employer are reviewed by multiple individuals, or not viewed until the posting has closed. Note - this does not include an auto-response you may receive from the employer once you have sent your resume.
* The position indicates a "first year compensation" that is in excess to the average compensation for that position type.
* Watch for anonymity. If it is difficult to find an address, actual contact, company name, etc. - this is cause to proceed with caution.
* The salary range listed is very wide (i.e. "employees can earn from $40K - $80K the first year!")
* Google the employer's phone number, fax number and/or email address. If it does not appear connected to an actual business organization, this is a red flag.
* The employer tells you that they do not have an office set-up in your area, and will need you to help them get it up and running (these postings often include a request for your banking information, supposedly to help the employer make transactions).

**Please do not hesitate to contact Career Services (209. 667-3661) if you have any questions or to report a fraudulent posting.**