



Ethan is an RX Analyst at Houlihan Lokey. He graduated from Penn State in 2022 with a bachelor's degree in Mathematics. During his time at Penn State, Ethan served as Associate of Materials, Lead of IT, Director of PAG, Director of Distressed Credit, and Chief Investment Officer. He interned at Houlihan Lokey during the summer of 2021, where he returned full-time beginning July 2022.

Alumni Spotlight: Ethan Laster '22

1. When were you a member of LLC and what positions did you hold?

I was a member from Spring 2019 to Fall 2021 and Associate of Materials, Lead of IT, Director of PAG, Director of Distressed Credit, and Chief Investment Officer.

2. How did LLC help prepare you for your career?

The three biggest ways that LLC helped prepare me for my career were through surrounding me with a group of people that were better than me, creating an environment that encouraged discipline / consistency, and teaching me the technicals that helped me stand out in getting a job. You become the average of the people that you spend time around, so with LLC constantly surrounding me with people that I could learn so much from in every way I was able to grow into a much better person than I ever would have been without them. Waking up for a 9am every M/W/F definitely sucks when you just want to sleep in after the late night before, but having that rigid consistency (along with all of the other work that goes into LLC), you figure out over time how to get yourself to do things that you don't want to do but know that you should. With technicals, if you really try to learn what you're doing beyond putting words on a slide and numbers in a model, you create such a solid foundation for all of the things you'd need to know on the job and so much more.

3. What advice would you give to the new members of LLC?

Care and be humble. You get out of LLC what you put in, so if you show up to class with the mindset that you're here to push yourself and get the most out of this amazing organization, you'll go ten times further than you would have if you had just gone through the motions. Humility is also a huge point I think not only helps you get further in life and in your career; realizing that everything has so much to offer you that you didn't know already is crucial as a new associate.

4. What advice would you give to current LLC members for their internships this summer?

Always have something to take notes on wherever you are and give your full attention. Taking notes when someone is talking not only helps you remember exactly what you need to do, but also gives a positive impression to whoever is in the room when you're taking notes. Small details can sometimes mean much more than you'd think, so devoting your full attention to whatever it is that you're working on – listening in on a call, working in Excel, even arranging logos – is something that you should always be doing.