

# THINK TWICE BEFORE RENEGING

From the Greene Center's [Emerging Technologies Career Community](#) Newsletter  
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## Is it ever OK to accept a job or internship offer and then back out ("renege")?

We've been hearing a lot lately about students who have already accepted an offer continuing to interview with other employers for "practice," or to see if they can get something "better." Sometimes, they get an offer that seems more attractive than the one they already accepted—and then they have a big dilemma on their hands.

Look—we get that it's a jungle out there. The job/internship search process can be challenging, and you never know if an employer will even take the time to get back to you, let alone give you an offer. However, there are several reasons why renegeing on an offer you have already accepted can be harmful as you begin your professional journey:

- **You may be placed on a “do not call/contact” list** by the original employer for future opportunities. Other employers in the industry may learn of the renegeing, resulting in you being turned down or even having an offer retracted. There can even be potential ramifications for networking if you get on such a list.
- **You may damage an important employer relationship** at the University of Rochester, resulting in fewer opportunities for students in the future.
- **Your integrity will suffer a blow.** This is probably the most important reason to really think about whether renegeing is something you want to do.

Our recommendations:

- **Make thoughtful, careful decisions about offers.** This may mean asking for more time to decide, or turning an employer down if it's not really a good fit. This way, you avoid the problem of putting yourself into a renegeing situation in the first place.
- **Once you've accepted an offer, stop interviewing and stop applying.** Remember the integrity thing? Yeah.
  - **Try to think long-term.** This opportunity is not your last. Consider honoring your commitment to the original employer and ask the other employer if they will be open to considering you again in the future.
- **Meet with a Greene Center advisor** as soon as you get an offer you're unsure about. We are here to support you and can help you think it through!

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