

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Career Road Trip: From college to career



Not sure where the road to your future begins? Not sure about a major? Career Services can help you with career exploration regardless of your year in school. Below you will find the necessary “pit-stops” en route to your future that will help keep you on track.

Freshman Year: Begin the Journey of Self-Discovery

- ❑ **Discover** your interests and skills through sports, student activities, assessment tests, coursework, and part-time jobs.
- ❑ **Visit** Career Services and receive an orientation to the resources, to write a resume, to research industries, job and internship listings, etc.
- ❑ **Talk** about your career interests with parents, friends, professors and other already employed individuals.
- ❑ **Explore** possible careers by listening to the “stories” of professionals and mentors; try internships, volunteer, part time, and summer jobs.
- ❑ **Attend** Career Services events.

Sophomore Year: Sights to See



- ❑ **Expand** your list of career options. Visit with a faculty advisor and a career counselor.
- ❑ **Join** additional organizations or clubs. Being involved demonstrates your social and team skills.
- ❑ **Conduct** informational interviews with people in positions you are interested in to gain career insights.
- ❑ **Gain** career-related work experience and develop skills through part-time jobs and internships.
- ❑ **Attend** career fairs and career-related programs to increase your knowledge of the full range of jobs that people perform.
- ❑ **Finalize** your major. Ask a counselor To help you with the decision and to set goals.

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Junior Year: Take a Test Drive

- ❑ **Research** companies, non-profits government agencies, and schools to identify your passion.
- ❑ **Seek** internship positions which allow you to sharpen your skills, build your career network, and help you to narrow your career focus.
- ❑ **Find** mentors; ask the Career Center for alumni in your career field.
- ❑ **Get to Know** faculty on campus; you will need their recommendations.
- ❑ **Contact** professional associations, visit local chapter meetings to be informed of trends, issues, and key players in that field of interest. Networking is crucial.
- ❑ **Attend Graduate** School events and Job Fairs; if graduate school is your next step start applying now.



Senior Year: Out on the Open Road

- ❑ **Confirm** your remaining degree requirements at the beginning of the year so you don’t have any “surprises” near graduation.
- ❑ **Discuss** job search strategies with a career counselor. Update your resume.
- ❑ **Follow through** with applications to professional and graduate schools.
- ❑ **Ask** for letters of recommendation from professors and employers while they still remember you.
- ❑ **Explore** all opportunities; seek a job to be ready upon graduation. Your first job doesn’t have to be the one from which you retire. It most likely won’t be!



After Graduation: Cruise Control

- ❑ **Continue** to develop your contacts. Allow for opportunities by meeting the right people, it’s called Networking
- ❑ **Share** your employment and contact information with Career Services and Alumni Relations to serve as a Career Consultant for future graduates!
- ❑ **Lead** future graduates toward their career goals by pursuing and fulfilling yours.