



The Compass: a Four-Year Academic & Career Planning Guide

Freshman Year

Academic Planning

- Enroll in courses with the help of your advisor.
- Select courses that will fulfill general degree requirements.
- Select elective/major courses where appropriate.
- Improve your study skills, using the Center for Student Learning, located in the Addlestone Library.
- Attend programs in order to explore various academic disciplines as areas of study.

Career Planning

- Take a fun, fast career assessment used to identify personal interests, skills, and values.
- Make an appointment to discuss your identified career interests and ideas with a Career Center counselor.
- Register on **CISTERN** *online* and explore volunteer opportunities, summer jobs, internships, and more.
- Visit the Center for International Education to discuss plans of studying abroad.

Sophomore Year

Academic Planning

- Join a campus organization of interest to you.
- Continue completion of general degree requirements.
- If decided about major, go to that departmental office to declare.
- If undecided about a major, attend a "How to Choose a Major" session and then see an advisor.
- Before completing 59 hours, declare a major.

Career Planning

- Identify different career interests and begin researching these areas.
- Meet with a Career Center staff member to further explore and develop career goals and strategies.
- Utilize the Career Mentor Network to conduct informational interviews with alumni and professionals.
- Explore internships, co-ops, volunteering, or other work experiences that relate to your career goals.
- Participate in campus organizations/activities. Seek leadership positions to gain work-related skills.

Junior Year

Academic Planning

- Pursue coursework in your major and finish general degree requirements.
- Take electives in other areas to enhance your qualifications.
- Speak with faculty about specializations and current trends in the field.
- Join any student organization affiliated with your academic department.

Career Planning

- Continue to identify and explore in-depth selected career fields.
- Gain exposure and career-related experience through volunteering, internships, co-ops, and part-time jobs.
- Interview alumni and professionals by using the Career Mentor Network.
- Speak with faculty and Career Center counselors about career planning and/or graduate school.
- Attend workshops on resume preparation, the job search, and interview techniques.
- Participate in Career Fairs and attend programs to develop your career planning skills.

Senior Year

Academic Planning

- Complete all major coursework and any other outstanding requirements.
- Explore directed individual study, special project, or internship possibilities in your major department.
- Investigate future trends in academic programs or other training opportunities.
- Complete applications for graduate or professional study. Take required admission tests.
- Initiate a degree audit to make sure you meet graduation requirements.

Career Planning

- Meet with a Career Center staff member to discuss job search or grad/professional school or alternatives.
- Update resume, have it reviewed and approved by Career Center, and publish it on **CISTERN** *online*.
- Research organizations and jobs related to your field or interests.
- Improve interview skills through mock interviews.
- Schedule campus interviews with selected companies and organizations.
- Prepare for and attend career fairs to meet employers.