

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS

<http://www.cofc.edu/parents>
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Getting ready for year three: A checklist for juniors

The Junior Year: Month-by-Month

- Every year: Discuss academic plans with an academic advisor
- Every year (March-April): Register for fall classes
- Every year (October-November): Register for spring classes
- Every year (October 1): Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- Every year (Jan-Feb): Complete the application to live on campus. Visit the Campus Housing office website for information at <http://housing.cofc.edu/>

August

- Finish any General Education classes still needed this year
- Complete a degree audit <http://registrar.cofc.edu/graduation/degree-audit.php>
- Make sure you have a meal plan in place – commuter plans are available <https://charleston.campusdish.com/>
- Get involved on campus - start checking out clubs and organizations to join <http://studentlife.cofc.edu/clubs-and-organizations/index.php>
- Find on campus or off campus jobs by using Handshake <http://careercenter.cofc.edu/index.php>
- Keep up with important deadlines <http://registrar.cofc.edu/calendars/index.php>
- Check out the Fitness Facilities <http://campusrec.cofc.edu/open-recreation/facility/facilities.php>

September

- Student should build a relationship with professors in their major
- Students should make an effort to get to know their academic advisor – once a major is declared a faculty advisor is assigned as the student’s primary academic advisor
- Attend Career Center workshops on topics such as choosing a major, resume writing, and interviewing <http://careercenter.cofc.edu/>
- Collect recommendations and necessary materials needed internships, part time jobs, or graduate school applications
- Participate in on campus interviews and keep up to date with employers coming on campus
- Participate in intramural sports <http://campusrec.cofc.edu/intramural-sports/index.php>
- Attend fall semester workshops offered by the Center for Student Learning <http://csl.cofc.edu/study-skills/workshops/index.php>
- Students who need help may want to request a tutor from the Center for Student Learning <http://csl.cofc.edu/labs/By%20Appointment%20Tutoring/index.php>
- If students have required major advising, they should set an appointment with their advisor before registering for the fall semester.

October

- Attend the Career Fair sponsored by the Career Center
- Think about faculty, staff, and employers that may be contacted to write recommendation letters. Many graduate schools and potential employers will require recommendations.
- Withdraw from any fall coursework by the withdrawal deadline <http://registrar.cofc.edu/>
- Attend Career Center workshops on topics such as choosing a major, resume writing, and interviewing <http://careercenter.cofc.edu/>
- Start thinking about applying for a summer internship and visit the Career Center before the end of the fall semester <http://careercenter.cofc.edu/students/index.php>
- Students who are interested in applying for a Resident Assistant or Orientation Intern position should seek out information regarding application deadlines from the Career Center, Office of Residence Life, or the Office of New Student Programs

December

- The Career Center website provides links which may help students think about how their interests and skills translate into possible majors and careers
- Fall grades post - use the GPA calculators to set academic goals for spring <http://capp.cofc.edu/gpa-calculators/semester-cumulative-gpa.php>
- Discuss the first semester and set goals for the spring semester

January

- Students should start looking for summer job or internship possibilities
- Consider sending a care package or gift certificate to local stores or restaurants to perk up your student's week
- Participation by an undergraduate in a challenging, scholarly project can be the single most important experience that a student will have in college. Check for the deadline to apply for undergraduate research activities <http://urca.cofc.edu/>

February

- Students should be on the look-out for upcoming deadlines related to study abroad and summer internships <http://careercenter.cofc.edu/students/internship-experiential-learning-opportunities/index.php>
- If students have required major advising, they should set an appointment with their advisor before registering for the fall semester.

March

- Be sure to withdraw from any spring class by the withdrawal deadline <http://registrar.cofc.edu/>
- Consider Maymester or summer school classes <http://summer.cofc.edu/index.php>
- If students plan to take classes at another institution they should complete the *Coursework Elsewhere Form* at <http://transfer.cofc.edu/forms/index.php> if they plan to take classes at another institution to transfer back to the College of Charleston.
- Keep copies of cover letters, resumes, and recommendation letters

April

- Start studying for exams early <http://csl.cofc.edu/>
- If living on campus, prepare to move out of the residence hall <http://reslife.cofc.edu/>

May

- Spring grades post – plan academic goals for the fall semester
<http://capp.cofc.edu/gpa-calculators/semester-cumulative-gpa.php>
- Students planning to apply for summer jobs or internships may want to visit Career Center for assistance with fine-tuning their resume and interviewing tips

June-July

- Part-time work, internships, or volunteering during the summer can be valuable experience to add to a resume
- Create a monthly budget for the upcoming academic year

Junior Planning

Academic Planning:

- Explore study abroad options with the Center for International Education
<http://international.cofc.edu/>
- Complete all general education requirements
- Participate in undergraduate research opportunities

Academic goals:

- Students may find that they need some academic assistance. Encourage them to utilize the services of the Center for Student Learning (<http://csl.cofc.edu>) as well as their professor's office hours.
- Start planning senior thesis or final projects that may be required the last year
- Research Graduate Schools, admission requirements, and entrance exams
- Begin collecting resources needed to study for graduate school entrance exams if required

Career Exploration:

- Get an internship
- Network with professionals in career fields
- Be sure to have an error free cover letter and resume
- Explore job search tools like LinkedIn that will make the search easier
- Students can utilize the services of the Career Center. Students can also access Handshake to find part time employment and internships. View the Career Center website at <http://careercenter.cofc.edu/> for more information.

Financial Aid & Scholarships:

- If your student has declared their major, they may be eligible for department scholarships. <http://finaid.cofc.edu/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/departamental-scholarships/index.php>

Parking & Bus Service:

- On Campus Parking Information: <http://parkingservices.cofc.edu/parking/students.php>
- CARTA express routes <http://parkingservices.cofc.edu/information-for/carta-bus-service.php>

Student Clubs & Organizations:

- Get involved in clubs and organizations related to an academic major <http://studentlife.cofc.edu/clubs-and-organizations/index.php>

Staying Safe and Healthy:

- All enrolled students can use student health services
- Juniors are not required to have a meal plan but it is a very convenient way to dine. Check out <https://charleston.campusdish.com/> for meal plan, block plan and dining dollar options
- If students are feeling overwhelmed their third year, they should utilize the services of the Counseling and Substance Abuse Center. They have counselors, support groups and peer counseling services available. You can find information about hours and services at <http://counseling.cofc.edu/index.php>

What Can I Do to Help My Junior Student?

A student's third year of college is critical if a student wants to be successful their senior year and after college. By now, a student has a schedule full of upper level courses, co-curricular activities, a job, and a social life to juggle in addition to preparing for life after graduation. However, with planning, a student can stay on track with less stress.

Most colleges require your student to choose a major by this time and stake a claim in a future career. Many students change their majors and some do so more than once so don't panic! It doesn't mean that there's anything wrong, just that there are so many choices, making it difficult for a generalist to narrow down the list. Encourage your student to talk with their academic advisor, career counselor, and faculty members for guidance in making this decision.

Tips on how you can help your student persevere through the junior year

- Remind your student of all she or he has accomplished and support their decision about a major or internship opportunity.
- If your student is having academic difficulties, encourage them to consult with their academic advisor, Center for Student Learning, and/or with the staff in Counseling & Substance Abuse Services.
- Encourage and support them as they seek to answer questions related to their academic, professional, social and spiritual identities and goals.
- Encourage your student to make use of all that CofC has to offer in terms of academic resources, support services, events, and student clubs and organizations.
- Encourage your student to take care of their physical well-being by getting enough sleep, eating healthy, and becoming involved in intramural sports or working out at the gym.