THE FOUR YEAR PLAN

1 Freshman Year: Discover

STEP 1: CONNECT WITH THE CAREER CENTER
Get acquainted with us! Stop by DUC110, call us at 314-935-5930 or schedule an appointment at careercenter.wustl.edu.

Begin by meeting with a Career Advisor or Career Peer. You’ll learn about how the Career Center can support you.

Explore CAREERlink, the Career Center online job, internship and co-op database. Use this site to RSVP for workshops and learn about career fairs.

GETTING AHEAD

Go to Career Center career exploration events, such as Career Interest Groups, Career Early Action, and Career Development Day to learn about the world of work from alumni and professionals.

Get involved with student groups.

STEP 2: CONSIDER YOUR INTERESTS
Take some time to reflect on your interests.

Meet once a semester with a Career Peer or Career Advisor to talk about your interests, especially as they relate to exploring majors and summer plans.

The Career Center provides online assessment tools to help you learn more about your career preferences at careercenter.wustl.edu.

STEP 3: DEVELOP A PROFESSIONAL RESUME
A college resume is very different from what you used in high school. Come to Quick Questions hours (10-5, Mon-Fri) for assistance with your first “professional” resume.

STEP 4: INVESTIGATE YOUR SUMMER OPTIONS
It is never too soon to gain experience during the summer! The summer following your freshman year is a great time to volunteer, find a summer job, intern, and/or shadow a professional.

Talk with family, friends, or alumni about the world of work. Learn more about internships by checking out Success Stories at: careercenter.wustl.edu/success.

2 Sophomore Year: Investigate

STEP 1: REFLECT & EVALUATE
Identify your core interests and strengths. Select a major, build on campus involvement, and begin to consider career paths.

Look for patterns in your skills and interests as you update your co-curricular portfolio.

Attend a Major Minor Decisions workshop if needed.

STEP 2: INVITE OTHERS IN
Meet with a Career Advisor in the fall to discuss your academic and career interests and how to explore them. This is a great time to discuss all your options – even if you don’t know what you want to do after graduation.

Get to know at least one professor and/or staff person who shares your intellectual and social interests.

GETTING AHEAD

Attend Career Development Day in the fall.

Expand your wardrobe to include a professional suit.

Sign up for a Career Interest Group.

Participate in the ACE program. Consider attending a Road Show.

STEP 3: GET READY TO EXPLORE OPTIONS
Sophomore summer is a great time for finding an internship or research experience.

Update your CAREERlink profile so you receive interest-specific e-mails.

Polish your resume so you are ready to apply for summer opportunities.

Arrange informational interviews with professionals who work in fields of interest to you. Reach out to WashU alumni to expand your network.

Attend one of the career fairs and SLAMs to meet with employers.

STEP 4: FOCUS ON A MEANINGFUL SUMMER
Spring (sometimes fall, depending on the industry) is the time for researching and applying to summer opportunities.

Check-in with your Career Advisor for support on your search.

Visit careercenter.wustl.edu/items/academic-credit to learn about the requirements to earn academic credit for an unpaid internship.
Review your resume and transcript to determine what skills, knowledge, and experiences you need to gain to pursue your fields of interest.
Research different graduate, health, or law programs. Review program descriptions, read faculty biographies, and make note of their entering criteria.

STEP 1: ENGAGE WITH THE CAREER CENTER

Junior year is the ideal time to actively start planning for life after college.

Once you reevaluate your options, you need to make a plan to reach your end goal. This is especially important if you are studying abroad this year, or hoping to apply to graduate school or a competitive fellowship.

STEP 2: DEVELOP YOUR POST-GRADUATION PLAN

STEP 2: ACTIVATE YOUR SEARCH

The most important thing about your search is to carve out time on a regular basis to invest in the process.

STEP 3: KEEP GOING

Be patient and persistent. The average job search takes about six months.

STEP 4: TRANSITION: THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

Graduation is close! Prepare yourself for the next chapter of your life.

GETTING AHEAD

Create a target list of potential employers, graduate or professional schools, or transitional programs.
Travel on a Road Show to meet employers and alumni.
Attend Career Camp (fall) and Junior Jumpstart (spring).

GETTING AHEAD

Get a head start by attending Career Camp in August.
Participate in a Road Show to meet with employers in major U.S. cities.
Join a Career Interest Group to keep your search on track.
Use LinkedIn to expand your list of professional contacts.
Read trade journals and business press to gain industry knowledge.

STEP 3: KEEP GOING

Be patient and persistent. The average job search takes about six months.

STEP 4: TRANSITION: THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

Graduation is close! Prepare yourself for the next chapter of your life.

Rework the above steps as needed!
Tell us your plans! Go to careercenter.wustl.edu/plans.
We’re here for you even after graduation — chat with us face to face, by telephone or on Skype!

Career Center | Washington University in St. Louis
careercenter.wustl.edu
(314) 935-5930