Your Career Action Plan: 4th (Final) Year

Graduation may seem far away, but it will be here before you know it. We are here to empower you to pursue your path, whether you are planning to go to graduate/professional school, exploring fellowship or one-year options, or working to land your 1st job. Career Services is available to you after graduation, too. Here are some recommendations for your final year.

Connect College to Your Career Goals

☐ Review your activities and update your resume.

Make note of the experiences and skills you’ve had over the past several years and think about how you can describe them in your resume, cover letter, or job interviews. Focus on your accomplishments, transferable skills, and the common themes that tie your experiences together.

☐ Apply for graduate school.

If you’re thinking about graduate school, many programs have a fall application deadline. The Graduate School handout offers resources to help you get organized and your career coach is available to assist you with your CV, personal statement, or interview.

☐ Meet with us to create a personalized strategy.

Whether you are just getting started on your career planning or have been planning throughout, we can help you clarify your interests and goals and coach you through a solid plan.

Scan the Career Landscape

☐ Search Career Link and other online resources.

If you are looking for a job, begin your process in early fall. Be sure to search Career Link for postings and on-campus interviews, frequently. Also, make use of the wide variety of general job search and industry-specific resources available on our site.

☐ Meet with potential employers at career fairs and information sessions.

Gain a competitive advantage by meeting as many employer representatives as possible. Personal connections can go a long way.

Consider How You Market Yourself

☐ Practice telling your story.

At this stage, all of the hard work you have done to date should be crafted into a concise, compelling story that you can share with potential employers. Make an appointment with us early in the year for help developing this narrative, sometimes referred to as an elevator pitch. It will be an important tool when it comes time to interview for positions.

☐ Practice your interview skills.
Sharpen those interview skills. We offer workshops on interviewing, and you can even schedule a mock interview session with a career counselor or perhaps even an employer (when available). Interview Stream is another proactive resource available to SPH students.

Make your online image work for you.

Further enhance your LinkedIn profile. As you prepare for your first destination after graduation, your profile should reflect your preparation, accomplishments, and career readiness. Request endorsements from faculty mentors, academic advisors, career coaches, and internship or employment supervisors. Peer mentors and your career coach are also available to prepare you to take these steps in LinkedIn. While revisiting your online brand, audit your social media presence and remove content that could shape the opinion of a potential employer.

Cultivate your online brand.

Be strategic about what and where you post to showcase your knowledge, abilities, and accomplishments — further cultivating your online brand. Develop an online portfolio of your projects and achievements and have all profiles link to it. Follow organizations and thought leaders in the field to keep up on trends. Perhaps consider starting your own blog.

Make Career Connections

Network with alumni and other professionals.

Research continues to support that networking is the number one way to land a job. Whether you have made contacts over the past several years or are just starting, now is the time to share post-graduation goals with as many individuals as possible. This includes alumni, faculty, friends, family, and others. The more people who know what you are looking for, the better your chances are of finding opportunities.

Attend our education programs and events.

Check the events calendar for workshops, for alumni guest speakers and panels, and for networking events.

Report

Report your career outcome.

About one month following graduation, you’ll receive an email requesting feedback on your post-graduation first destination. Share your feedback, be it full-time or part-time employment or graduate school. Career outcome data provides us with valuable information to continually enhance our programs and highlight the successes of our school.

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