Your Career Action Plan: Graduate Program

Career Services offers assistance throughout your graduate career, whether you are considering a career inside or outside academia, or both. Careers in academia may include positions as faculty members, administrators or researchers. Outside opportunities may include professional work in industry or in government, nonprofit, consulting, and many other career fields.

We are available to help you assess, explore, and pursue the options that might be an ideal fit for you and to assist you in developing strategies for launching your career following graduate school.

Assess

- Review your experience and update your resume or CV.

Make note of the experiences and skills you’ve had to date. Perhaps you entered graduate school with years of experience or transitioned directly from undergrad. Think about how you can describe your experiences in your resume, cover letter, or job interviews. Focus on your accomplishments, transferable skills, and the common themes that tie your experiences together.

- Establish your career goals.

Early in your graduate program, establish your career path and create goals to get there. We can help you clarify your interests and goals and together develop a solid plan.

Integrate

- Connect with faculty, researchers, and professionals.

Whether your interest is in environmental, family, or behavioral health; human performance or exercise physiology; or something entirely different, get to know the faculty, researchers, and professionals in your field of interest.

- Go do!

After making connections, start engaging in your work of interest. Connect with a School of Public Health-Bloomington center, institute, or specialized laboratory, volunteer or intern with a Health Department or with a social service agency, job shadow a professional in your field of interest, or publish and present research at conferences.

Pursue

- Develop a customized self-marketing strategy.

Work closely with the Office of Career Services to identify opportunities, enhance your networking, as well as create tailored resumes, CV’s, and letters.

- Consider Fellowships.

Participation in a prestigious fellowship can greatly enhance your career readiness. Explore if this is the right career opportunity for you. Meet with your career coach to learn more about the Fellowship Mentoring Program, to learn more about the application process, or to get feedback on your application materials.
Launch

- **Activate your network.**

  Research continues to support that networking is the number-one way to land a job. Now is the time to share post-graduation goals with as many individuals as possible. This includes professionals in the field, alumni, faculty, friends, family and others. The more people who know what you are seeking, the better your chances are of finding opportunities.

- **Market your skills.**

  Reflect on your education, experiences, and competencies and prepare to market them during the interview process. Meet with your career coach to conduct a mock interview, negotiate job offers, or discuss strategies for pulling it all together. Understand the different approaches to academic and non-academic job search and interview processes.

Report

- **Report your career outcome.**

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