

Roadmap to Success

Year 1
Goal:
Build Your Brand
& Get Involved

- 🐾 Strive for a strong GPA (3.0 +)
- 🐾 Complete the Focus 2 Assessment through your ORI class
- 🐾 Participate in campus events. Volunteer. Have Fun!
- 🐾 Join clubs and organizations
- 🐾 Review the CDS website for resumes and create a strong collegiate resume
- 🐾 Get your resume approved by CDS via VMock
- 🐾 Create a profile in Handshake
- 🐾 Invest in your professional wardrobe for interviews and more; visit the CDS Career Closet, if needed
- 🐾 Research and apply for part-time jobs, internships, co-ops and job shadowing
- 🐾 Attend CDS events, employer info sessions, workshops and career fairs

Year 2
Goal:
Begin your
Career Search

- 🐾 Strive to earn a strong GPA (3.0 +)
- 🐾 Check in with your CDS Career Counselor
- 🐾 Attend CDS events, employer info sessions, workshops and career fairs
- 🐾 Request informational interviews and job shadowing with professionals in your field of interest
- 🐾 Update your resume via VMock and include memberships and class projects related to your major
- 🐾 Practice interviewing via mock interviews and InterviewStream
- 🐾 Update your professional wardrobe
- 🐾 Meet professionals who can serve as mentors and provide references
- 🐾 Join or, if already a member, seek leadership roles with student clubs
- 🐾 Build a LinkedIn profile with a professional headshot
- 🐾 Actively use Handshake to apply for internships, co-ops and special programs—Apply early! For some majors, more opportunities are available in the junior year, so don't be discouraged
- 🐾 Ensure that you are meeting graduation requirements

Year 3
Goal:
Secure an
Internship/Co-op

- 🐾 Maintain a strong GPA (3.0 +)
- 🐾 Meet with a CDS Career Counselor
- 🐾 Actively use Handshake to apply for co-ops and internships — remember to apply early!
- 🐾 Attend CDS events, employer info sessions, workshops and career fairs
- 🐾 Pursue a leadership position with a student organization
- 🐾 Considering graduate school? Explore school and program options
- 🐾 Update your resume via VMock and LinkedIn profile
- 🐾 Practice interviewing via mock interviews and InterviewStream
- 🐾 Tailor class projects and research papers around your career interests
- 🐾 Ensure that you are meeting graduation requirements

Year 4
Goal:
Launch Your
Career

- 🐾 Meet with CDS Career Counselor
- 🐾 Start the job search and application process early
- 🐾 Attend career fairs and employer information sessions to secure career opportunities
- 🐾 Take graduate school admission tests, write personal statements, cover letters and follow deadlines. Better early than late!
- 🐾 Update your resume via VMock and LinkedIn profile
- 🐾 Evaluate your preferred geographical region and conduct salary research specific to your location
- 🐾 Continue to network with friends, family, employers, and alumni; keep them updated on your job search
- 🐾 Stay involved in student activities
- 🐾 Complete the First Destination Survey
- 🐾 Request reference letters

Graduate School
Goal:
Advance Your Career

- 🐾 Update your resume via VMock and LinkedIn profile at least once a year
- 🐾 Attend career fairs, employer information sessions and conferences aligned with your area of study
- 🐾 Evaluate your preferred geographical region and conduct salary research specific to your location
- 🐾 Start the job search and application process early
- 🐾 Meet graduation requirements by completing the First Destination Survey



ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY

The Office of Student Affairs
Integrity. Diversity. Collaboration. Service.

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