



The Compass: a Four-Year Academic & Career Planning Guide

Freshman Year	<p style="text-align: center;">Academic Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enroll in courses with the help of your advisor. • Select courses that will fulfill general degree requirements. • Select elective/major courses where appropriate. • Improve your study skills, using the Center for Student Learning, located in the Addlestone Library. • Attend programs in order to explore various academic disciplines as areas of study.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Career Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a fun, fast career assessment used to identify personal interests, skills, and values. • Make an appointment to discuss your identified career interests and ideas with a Career Center counselor. • Register on CISTERN <i>online</i> and explore volunteer opportunities, summer jobs, internships, and more. • Visit the Center for International Education to discuss plans of studying abroad.
Sophomore Year	<p style="text-align: center;">Academic Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join a campus organization of interest to you. • Continue completion of general degree requirements. • If decided about major, go to that departmental office to declare. • If undecided about a major, attend a “How to Choose a Major” session and then see an advisor. • Before completing 59 hours, declare a major.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Career Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify different career interests and begin researching these areas. • Meet with a Career Center staff member to further explore and develop career goals and strategies. • Utilize the Career Mentor Network to conduct informational interviews with alumni and professionals. • Explore internships, co-ops, volunteering, or other work experiences that relate to your career goals. • Participate in campus organizations/activities. Seek leadership positions to gain work-related skills.
Junior Year	<p style="text-align: center;">Academic Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue coursework in your major and finish general degree requirements. • Take electives in other areas to enhance your qualifications. • Speak with faculty about specializations and current trends in the field. • Join any student organization affiliated with your academic department.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Career Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to identify and explore in-depth selected career fields. • Gain exposure and career-related experience through volunteering, internships, co-ops, and part-time jobs. • Interview alumni and professionals by using the Career Mentor Network. • Speak with faculty and Career Center counselors about career planning and/or graduate school. • Attend workshops on resume preparation, the job search, and interview techniques. • Participate in Career Fairs and attend programs to develop your career planning skills.
Senior Year	<p style="text-align: center;">Academic Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete all major coursework and any other outstanding requirements. • Explore directed individual study, special project, or internship possibilities in your major department. • Investigate future trends in academic programs or other training opportunities. • Complete applications for graduate or professional study. Take required admission tests. • Initiate a degree audit to make sure you meet graduation requirements.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Career Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with a Career Center staff member to discuss job search or grad/professional school or alternatives. • Update resume, have it reviewed and approved by Career Center, and publish it on CISTERN <i>online</i>. • Research organizations and jobs related to your field or interests. • Improve interview skills through mock interviews. • Schedule campus interviews with selected companies and organizations. • Prepare for and attend career fairs to meet employers.