

# CAREER DEVELOPMENT 4-YEAR PLAN

	ACADEMIC	CAREER	PERSONAL/SOCIAL
FIRST-YEAR - IMAGINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet with your faculty advisor regarding majors and future goals.</li> <li>• Take introductory courses to sample majors of interest.</li> <li>• Get to know your professors, actively participate in class.</li> <li>• Develop solid study habits and a good GPA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register for Handshake to peruse open jobs and internships, connect with students beyond NWU with similar career interests, and to schedule career coaching appointments.</li> <li>• Set up an appointment with a career coach in the Career Center to explore academic majors and career opportunities.</li> <li>• Browse the resources in the Handshake resource library and on the Career Center website at <a href="http://career.nebrwesleyan.edu">career.nebrwesleyan.edu</a>.</li> <li>• Attend A MAJOR Event in the fall to learn about NWU majors from each department.</li> <li>• Use the Career Assistance Network to connect with alumni working in your areas of interest. Access the network online at <a href="http://career.nebrwesleyan.edu">career.nebrwesleyan.edu</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Join at least one NWU student organization.</li> <li>• Set aside time for exciting volunteer experiences or part-time jobs.</li> <li>• Meet new friends and build campus relationships.</li> <li>• Make time for friends and family.</li> </ul>
SOPHOMORE - INVESTIGATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about career options for academic majors through faculty members.</li> <li>• Begin to solidify your major, declare by your second semester.</li> <li>• Develop an academic plan with your advisor according to degree requirements.</li> <li>• Apply good study habits, maintain a strong GPA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin to think about possible internship opportunities. Use the Internship Database to discover where NWU students have completed internships. Access the database online at <a href="http://career.nebrwesleyan.edu">career.nebrwesleyan.edu</a>.</li> <li>• Use the Career Assistance Network to shadow or do an informational interview with an alum in your field of interest.</li> <li>• Develop and improve your resume with assistance from the Career Center. If seeking an internship, consider uploading your resume to Handshake for employers to view.</li> <li>• Begin looking at seasonal/part-time employment related to your interests.</li> <li>• Attend Backpack to Briefcase in the spring to get an idea of potential employers and opportunities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Join a professional organization related to your major.</li> <li>• Take leadership roles on campus.</li> <li>• Look into studying abroad.</li> <li>• Review and reaffirm your values, interest, personality and abilities.</li> <li>• Participate in volunteer opportunities on campus or within the community.</li> </ul>
JUNIOR - INTERACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk with your advisor to make sure you're meeting academic requirements for graduation and discuss career options.</li> <li>• Look into prestigious scholarship opportunities if continuing your education.</li> <li>• Consider the possibility of an advanced degree.</li> <li>• Class topic sparked an interest? Talk to professors regarding research opportunities.</li> <li>• Maintain a solid GPA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research companies and work environments.</li> <li>• Discuss career concerns with a career coach.</li> <li>• Think about taking a practice graduate/professional school entrance exam.</li> <li>• Meet NWU alumni through the Career Assistance Network to discuss transitioning to the workplace or to graduate school.</li> <li>• Continue to hone your resume and have it critiqued by a career coach.</li> <li>• Obtain an internship to explore a career field and gain practical experience. See internship listings in Handshake.</li> <li>• Attend the Backpack to Briefcase Student/Employer Reception.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore post-college options.</li> <li>• Develop a list of professional references and keep in close contact.</li> <li>• Begin the application process for graduate or professional school and take entrance exams.</li> <li>• Continue to gain practical experience through activities, employment and community involvement.</li> </ul>
SENIOR - IMPLEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet regularly with your advisor, confirm graduation status.</li> <li>• Fill out necessary graduation forms.</li> <li>• Request letters of recommendation from faculty members.</li> <li>• Maintain a solid GPA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure your resume and profile are updated in Handshake, use the platform to search for full-time job listings.</li> <li>• Continue meeting with a career coach regarding your job search or graduate school application.</li> <li>• Attend the Backpack to Briefcase Student/Employer Reception as well as other local career fairs.</li> <li>• Have your resume, cover letter and/or graduate school essays critiqued by a career coach in the Career Center.</li> <li>• Access employer information, graduate school resources and other job vacancy boards online.</li> <li>• Ask alumni in the Career Assistance Network about prospective employers, job hunting and relocating.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set aside specific time for your job search or your graduate school application process.</li> <li>• Continue to network and tell others about your plans.</li> <li>• Relocating? Visit cities of interest.</li> <li>• Tell others of your after-graduation plans, seek advice and contacts.</li> <li>• Let the Career Center know how it's going!</li> </ul>