Getting Started

The Career Center is your one-stop resource for career services on campus, whether you are selecting a major, looking for an internship or pursuing your first professional position.

The Career Center is committed to help you get started on the path to reaching your goals.

Ask Questions
The staff at the Career Center will provide you with answers relevant to your situation and career goals. Learn about all of the services we provide during our walk-in advising hours from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm, Monday though Friday. Simply sign-in at the front desk and one of our career advisors will review the services with you. Our services include the following: individual career advising appointments, career assessments, workshops, internships, connectSC Career Network, connectSC, On-Campus Recruiting, Career Fair, Career Fest and Internship Week.

Find a Major and Career That Are Right for You
Chances are you have some idea about what kind of work you would like to do. Take classes that interest you and use general electives to explore options for your major. Try not to limit your course work to one academic discipline. Ask a career advisor about taking a career interest and/or personality assessment to help you determine possible majors, preferences and careers of interest.

Develop Effective Job Search Strategies
It’s never too early to begin exploring varied fields and organizations while gaining valuable work experience. Internships, work-study and on-campus jobs provide students in all academic schools and programs with an opportunity to learn about many types of interesting work environments. Think outside the box! This is your chance to stretch beyond your major! Explore the online job listings and post your resume on connectSC. Attend company profile events and network with USC alumni through the connectSC Career Network, Career Fair, Career Fest, Explore@4 and Internship Week.

Visit the Career Center website at http://careers.usc.edu to access our online events calendar to ensure that you do not miss any upcoming workshops, panels or company profile events.

Here are some year-by-year suggestions to keep your job search on-track.

Freshman Year
Take some time to adjust to college. During the year stop by the Career Center for a quick orientation about what we do and how we can help you. Focus on your academics. First year grades will affect your overall GPA and your ability to meet requirements set by potential employers.

Set the following goals for your first year:

2. Develop a first draft of a resume. Bring your resume to walk-in advising for review by a career advisor, then post it on connectSC.
3. Attend Internship Week panels.
4. Attend Explore@4 panels for industries of interest.
**Sophomore Year**
Now is the time to explore your interests and test your perceptions of career fields. This is the year you will declare a major. You should feel comfortable with your choice and the foundation it will provide for your first job. You have probably mastered the skill of research while completing your class projects. Now use this skill to manage ‘project you’:

1. Visit the Internship Programs Office (STU B1).
2. Research and apply for an internship or career-related part-time job.
3. Register for a course to receive academic internship credit.
4. Join a professional association to learn more about your options.

**Junior Year**
During this year, you will be exploring options for your life after college. Should you attend graduate or professional school immediately after graduation, or seek full-time employment?

1. Attend Career Fairs; find out who is hiring. Begin to establish relationships with these company representatives.
2. Apply for an internship.
3. Develop a list of possible full-time employers.
4. Identify USC alumni through the Trojan Network to serve as advisors for your job search.
5. If graduate school is in your plans, research schools, fellowships and admissions requirements.

**Senior Year**
Now the questions are coming fast and furious. What are you going to do after graduation? Do you have a job yet? Have you been accepted to graduate school?

Your friends may return from the summer with full-time job offers from an internship and you may begin to feel that you are out-of-the-loop and falling behind. Remember: each career field has its own hiring cycle. Don’t panic! You need a plan:

1. Meet with a career advisor to focus your search.
2. Research employers and keep current by reading trade publications and visiting company websites.
3. Finalize your resume and review it with a career advisor.
4. Schedule a mock interview.
5. Register for and participate in On-Campus Recruiting (OCR).
6. Stay healthy and focus on completing your degree requirements. Maintain your GPA through your final semester of college.

The staff at the Career Center are here to help you discover your options, so call or make an appointment today online on connectSC!