

What you need to do during college to prepare for good job choices after graduation

You need at least a 3.0 GPA

- Academics provide both knowledge and discipline, important for all jobs.
- Employers would rather see a 3.0 and three internships than a 4.0 and no internships.
- To an employer, a 3.0 or better means “you do what you are told,” and a 3.0 or below means, “you don’t do what you are told.” Employers want to hire people who follow directions.
- If your cumulative GPA is below 3.0, come to the Career Center to learn how to better represent yourself.

You need to do internships

- “Internship” is just a word that implies applied, practical, professional experience. Volunteer situations or paid work that expose you to applied, practical, professional-level experiences meet this need as well.
- You don’t have to do the RIGHT internship, or know what career you want before you start doing internships. Any internship on your resume demonstrates initiative. Employers like initiative.
- Doing internships before heading to grad school is a great way to try out the field the grad degree will be in and gain more credentials for the grad school application.
- People hire who they know and who they like. Students are far more likely to get a full-time job after graduation from the employers they interned with than a student who cold-submits a resume to the same employers online.

You need to work with your Career Center (HFA Advising and Career Center, E205 South College, umass.edu/hfa/careers)

- Attend workshops during your first year on how to customize resumes and cover letters to get past resume-reading robots.
- Get help finding internships and/or jobs and learn how to network effectively.
- Take assessments and have in-depth conversations about career directions.
- Learn how to interview well and negotiate your salary, prepare for career fairs, and explore employers and careers.
- Take advantage of the career-related programming that will be happening around you:
 - ✓ Career and internship fairs
 - ✓ Semester-long career courses
 - ✓ 30 minute workshops on resume writing, internship searching, interviewing, etc., throughout the semester
 - ✓ Employer information sessions
 - ✓ Credited and uncredited internships, and co-op opportunities
 - ✓ Networking events and alumni panels and talks
 - ✓ Walk-In resume critique
 - ✓ Departmental career events and workshops, Junior Year Writing and Integrated Experience career assignments
 - ✓ Weekly emails alerting you to career events and opportunities
 - ✓ Access to databases of internships, co-ops and jobs
 - ✓ One-hour career planning appointments with career advisors
 - ✓ Access to career information on the HFA Advising and Career Center’s website

But What Career Do I Head Toward?

HFA Advising and Career Center has the resources you need.
E205 South College, umass.edu/hfa/careers

Is there a logical, rational process to figuring out what you want to be when you grow up? For some people, maybe, but then they probably already know what they want to be and are on their way. **Fewer than 2% of Americans know at a young age what career they want AND grow up to do it.** Most people wander about, bump into careers, try jobs, and then slide over into other kinds of work. Some people live to work, and others work to live. There is no one right way to go about creating a work/life that fits you.

So head out into the world, interact with people, work in some capacity alongside them, and you will experience new environments and make connections with people who can support your professional aspirations.

<p>DO INTERNSHIPS, AND/OR VOLUNTEER, AND/OR WORK</p> <p>Get out there and participate in the work world, picking employers or jobs you would like to learn more about. Come to HFA Advising and Career Center to attend workshops on how to find internships.</p>	<p>RESEARCH CAREERS AND PEOPLE ONLINE</p> <p>Before you talk with people about their jobs, before you apply anywhere, before you make career decisions, spend time researching. You risk looking disinterested (or unintelligent) if you haven't.</p>
<p>TAKE ASSESSMENTS</p> <p>Go to umass.edu/hfa/careers and take FOCUS, or play with MyNextMove, or look at What Can I Do With My Major? or What Careers Can I Consider?</p> <p>(Find all links at umass.edu/hfa/careers)</p>	<p>TALK TO EVERYONE</p> <p>No, really.</p> <p>Ask people about their jobs and their work paths, whether they are parents or distant relatives, professors or graduate students, or people doing jobs you are interested in. Learn how to do Informational Interviewing.</p>

Try stuff! Do stuff! Leave that comfort zone, take important risks, reach a bit beyond what you think you know about yourself.

Evaluate that stuff! Was it great? (Repeat?) Was it awful? (Ewww... try something very different next time.)

Then don't just sit there, try more stuff! In college you can take chances. Actively explore the work world before there are bigger consequences.

HFA Advising and Career Center has the resources you need to be successful!



HFA Advising and Career Center, E202 South College, 413-545-6152,
umass.edu/hfa/careers