

CLAS Career Exploration Plan – Prezi Notes

Main Slide

The purpose of this presentation is to help you start developing your personal career exploration plan. We will review the important elements of your preparation and many of the resources available to CLAS students through the Center for Career Development. As you work on your personal career exploration plan, keep in mind that career development is rarely a linear process. It's important to revisit previous steps to reconsider your motivations and goals as you grow and learn.

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Our first career exploration element is to ... Learn about yourself

Before you can figure out your future career path you first need to understand who you are. Ask yourself:

- What are my work values?
- What are my career and personal interests?
- What skills do I have and what skills do I want to develop?

Keep in mind that these preferences and strengths can change over time and your dream post-college career may be very different than your ideal job later in life.

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There are many ways to learn about yourself and reflect on your personal values, interests, and skills:

- Joining a club or learning community helps you explore your personal and career related interests. Employers look for students who make the most of their time outside of the classroom and get involved in activities they are passionate about.
- By exploring different academic subjects through your electives and gen eds. you have the opportunity to identify areas you might not have considered before.
- Volunteering lets you help other people and develop transferable skills in the process.
- Meeting with a career consultant or filling out the Quick Profile assessment on HuskyCareerPrep, our online career preparation tool can help you process how your values, interests, and skills connect to potential careers.

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A key component of determining what career you'd like to pursue is taking time to explore majors and careers.

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- You can research majors by visiting individual departments' websites, the registrar's website, and "What Can I Do with My Major" pages on the CCD website
- **WCIDWMM pages** will provide you will valuable information including nature of work, sample job titles, opportunities to gain relevant experience, and links to professional associations

- You can research careers on the CCD website and through **HuskyCareerPrep**, our online career prep tool which connects you with research resources to learn about different careers and how to prepare for them. Watching webinars on Evisors will give you additional tailored information about specific industries.
- Building a **LinkedIn Profile** helps you maintain and build your professional connections.
- Informational interviewing is when you interview a career professional to learn about what they do, determine if it would be a good fit for you, and seek their professional advice. Conducting info interviews will also help you strategically expand your network.
- The **CLAS Career Advisor program** partners you with an alumnus with a similar major or career industry. Your advisor will help you explore career options and leverage the power of the CLAS alumni network.
- Job shadowing and attending a Career Connections employer site visit will give you the opportunity to visit an employer, learn about what they do, and ask your career-related questions.
- The **CLAS Career Panels** are a great opportunity to learn about a variety of careers and explore how alumni applied their major to their career path.
- Reading the **CLAS Alumni Profiles** on the CCD website will give you further exposure to your career options.
- To get involved with any of these opportunities check out the CLAS portion of the CCD website and keep your eye out on our calendar for upcoming events and networking opportunities.

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Once you have a better understanding of who you are and what you're interested in, it is time to seek out relevant experiences and develop industry related skills.

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You can gain relevant experience by seeking ...

- Internships, co-ops, part time jobs, leadership positions on campus, and volunteer opportunities

Obtaining relevant experience will help you...

1. Determine if a career is a good fit
2. Gain skills and relevant work experience
3. Be competitive in your job search
4. Give you credibility and references for future employers

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Now that you know the three components of career exploration: Learning about yourself, exploring majors and careers, and gaining relevant experience, you can start to **set goals and implement your plan**. Starting your exploration early gives you the flexibility to try new things and find your best fit before targeting a specific career path when you graduate. Remember that as your values, interests, and skills change taking time to revisit the previous exploration elements and adapt your plan is essential.

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- In order to implement your plan it's important to be prepared by knowing how to write a résumé, cover letters, conduct a job search, interview with employers, or decide if graduate schools is right for you.
- Meeting with a career consultant and attending our core workshops can help you be ready for any step in your exploration process.
- One way to ensure you're ready for your next steps is by obtaining the certificate of professional development. Earning your cert. of prof. dev. helps you become career ready and helps you illustrate your hard work to employers.
- Two great resources for searching for internships and jobs include attending the UConn career fairs and by searching on HuskyCareerLink, our online job board.
- The CCD also offers resources to practice interviewing online through InterviewStream and to schedule an in person practice interview in our office.

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Now that you've finished watching our career exploration presentation, you're ready to complete your "next steps" assessment.