Junior Year: Explore Career Options

As you begin your UCLA education as a transfer student, visit the Career Center to discover or research career options in a host of fields of study. You can further explore career opportunities and gain experience in your area of interest by applying for jobs, internships, and volunteer activities.

Are you asking yourself these questions? “What options do I have with my major?” “What resources are available to me as a transfer student?” “What do I need to do to prepare for my future career?”

1. Set up a Same-Day Career Counseling appointment through BruinView™ and become familiar with different occupations by utilizing the Career Center Library.
2. Conduct informational interviews with professionals who work in your career field of interest by networking with alumni. Shadow a professional at their work place (see Chapter 3).
3. Explore leadership opportunities with UCLA student groups (studentgroups.ucla.edu).
4. Secure a summer internship. Winter quarter is the busiest internship recruiting season. Attend the Career Center’s many recruiting events, career fairs, and check BruinView™ for internship postings, information sessions, and On-Campus Recruitment (campus interviews).
5. Prepare for graduate school (if your career choice requires an advanced degree) by researching programs, attending graduate school information sessions and fairs, and becoming familiar with admissions requirements and deadlines.
6. Decide if you want to attend graduate school directly upon receiving your undergraduate degree, or take a year or more off to work or travel.
7. Develop relationships with faculty members and request letters of recommendation. Open a Letters of Reference file with the Career Center while the details of your accomplishments are still fresh in your professors’ minds (career.ucla.edu/LOR).
8. Study hard and keep your grades as high as possible.

Senior Year: Make a Career Decision

As a transfer student with limited time at UCLA, it is important to plan ahead and set reasonable goals for yourself. Soon you will be facing the transition from college to a career position or graduate school. BruinView™, career fairs, internships, and interviews will help you identify prospective employers and career positions. If you are considering a graduate program, graduate and professional school applications, letters of reference, and test scores must be submitted early.

Are you asking yourself these questions? “What types of jobs are available?” “How do I find a job that’s right for me?” “Should I go to graduate school now or later?”

1. Prepare for fall recruiting. Fall quarter is the busiest recruiting season, with hundreds of employers on campus to hire seniors into entry-level positions. Actively attend career fairs and employer information sessions. Check BruinView™ for jobs, internships, and interviews.
2. Discover successful job search strategies by continuing to attend a variety of career workshops.
3. Make sure your resume includes your community college experiences as well as work, leadership, internship, and volunteer experience.
4. Consult with a career counselor to set timelines and establish goals.
5. Network through LinkedIn and use contacts to identify job opportunities and to get referrals.
6. Apply to graduate or professional schools if your career plans require a graduate degree.
7. Confirm your remaining degree requirements at the beginning of the year with your academic advisor so there are no surprises when it comes time to graduate.