We help you translate your academic and co-curricular experience into professional skills and opportunities from day one.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

**4 YEAR CAREER PLAN**

**SOPHOMORE YEAR**

**Maximize** your NU experience by exploring all the resources available to you.

- **Begin** to identify post-graduation opportunities most aligned with your interests, values, skills, and personality preferences, or meet with a career counselor to clarify your options.

- **Reflect** on what courses, activities, and experiential learning opportunities will allow you to gain desired professional skills and explore potential career options.

- **Think** about your career goals and what you have to offer employers (your strengths, skills, experiences), and begin to develop a narrative or "elevator speech" to use to engage employers and alumni.

- **Continue** to research 2-3 potential careers/industries using NCA online resources such as WetFeet, Vault, and the Occupational Outlook Handbook.

- **Learn** how to identify and communicate professionally with contacts in careers of interest by meeting with your career adviser.

- **Expand** your knowledge of potential career options using the LinkedIn alumni tool to review the profiles of NU alumni who studied your major and/or work in an industry of interest.

- **Learn** about and consider national park opportunities through Environmental Field School at Northwestern.

- **Supplement** your online research by conducting 1-2 informational interviews each quarter with personal contacts, NU alumni, and industry experts in careers of interest.

- **Increase** your leadership experience within your student organizations by chairing a committee, initiating a project, or running for office.

- **Obtain** an experiential learning opportunity (research, study abroad, internship, part-time job, volunteer work) to gain exposure to a career field of interest and acquire work experience.

- **Decide** on academic major(s), minor(s), or certificate program(s); meet with University Academic Advising if you are considering an inter-school transfer.

- **Identify** potential faculty mentors to develop research interests.

- **Identify** and begin to decide on appropriate summer experiential learning opportunities by the end of fall quarter, and meet with your career adviser to discuss/update your individualized career plan.

- **If considering graduate school,** begin developing relationships with at least 2 faculty members who may write recommendations in the future (go to office hours, inquire about/get involved in their research).

- **Participate** in NCA Internship & Job Fairs to increase industry/employer knowledge, make connections with employers, and pursue specific internship opportunities.

- **Update** your resume in CareerCat, incorporating professional skills and accomplishments from freshmen year experiences.

- **Update** your LinkedIn profile, connect with new personal contacts, and join groups and follow companies related to your career goals.

- **Contact** the Office of Fellowships to learn about career-related fellowships, such as the CORO Public Interest Fellowship or the Fulbright.

- **Expand** your professional network by attending networking events on or off-campus.

- **Apply** to summer experiential learning opportunities with targeted resume and cover letters.