

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES CAREER PLAN JUNIOR YEAR

### ASSESS

- Reflect on your previous experiential learning opportunities to determine if they might lead to a satisfying career, and narrow down the post-graduation opportunities you are considering.
- Assess your professional skills and identify ways to develop additional skills desired in your specific career field(s).
- Discuss with a career counselor whether or not graduate/professional school would be an appropriate option, and begin researching programs and the application process if applicable.
- If you do not yet have a career focus, meet with a NCA career counselor to clarify your options.

### EXPLORE

- Extensively research careers, industries, and employers of interest using Vault, Mergent Intellect, LinkedIn, and company websites.
- Learn strategies for identifying contacts in specific industries (such as using the LinkedIn alumni tool) and strengthen your professional communication skills by meeting with your career adviser.
- Supplement your online research by conducting 1-2 informational interviews each quarter with personal contacts, NU alumni, and industry experts in specific careers/industries.
- Pursue a leadership position within your student organizations, and add new activities that complement your developing career goals.
- Investigate potential summer research opportunities within and outside of the university, such as Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) and Undergraduate Research Grants (URGs), by meeting with program faculty to discuss options.
- Obtain an experiential learning opportunity to clarify your career goals and gain specific professional skills (if seeking employment upon graduation, plan on interning during the summer for possible conversion of internship into full-time position).

### DECIDE

- 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.  
*\*Students interested in Finance areas need to do this before fall quarter.*
- Select and apply to preferred summer research opportunities.
- Select 2-3 industries to consider for full-time employment upon graduation and learn the recruiting timelines for these industries.

### ACT

- Update your resume in Handshake, incorporating professional skills and accomplishments from sophomore year experiences.
- Update and tailor your LinkedIn profile, add new personal contacts, and join groups and follow companies related to your career goals.
- If applicable, begin preparation for graduate/professional school by taking admissions tests in the summer or fall of senior year and preparing application materials.
- Develop a polished professional presentation to use to engage employers and alumni during networking events.
- Expand your professional network by attending networking events on or off-campus.
- Strategically engage in NCA Internship & Job Fairs to increase industry/employer knowledge, make connections with employers, and pursue specific internship opportunities.
- Apply to summer experiential learning opportunities with targeted resume and cover letters.
- Practice your interviewing skills by conducting a mock interview with your career adviser.