

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES CAREER PLAN SOPHOMORE YEAR

ASSESS

- 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 to use to engage employers and alumni.

EXPLORE

- Continue to research 2-3 potential careers/industries using NCA online resources such as Vault
- 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.
- 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 (e.g. research, study abroad, internship, part-time job, volunteer work) to gain exposure to a career field of interest and acquire work experience.

DECIDE

- Decide on academic major(s), minor(s), or certificate program(s); meet with Weinber College Advising Office 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.

ACT

- 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 Handshake, 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.