

HOW TO SET CAREER GOALS

By: Noelle Perkins



Setting a Career Goal sounds like a simple task; know the field you want to work in, select a position that suits your talents and then work towards landing that job. However, you should consider breaking down your overall career goal into smaller more attainable goals throughout your undergraduate studies. This will help you feel more confident in your job prospects and less stressed upon graduation.

In your first year, make it a goal to take a wide variety of electives. You'll gain exposure to the vast academic options available to you. By second year, make it your goal to select a major and a minor. By third year, start thinking about the steps you will need to take to secure your dream job after graduation. Examine job postings for an entry-level position into your field, understand what skills are required and gain them through a volunteer role or internship. Make it a goal to apply for a summer internship and/or volunteer position in your field. There you will gain experience, transferrable skills and contacts to expand your network. In the final year work closely with a career counsellor or mentor to ensure success during the job hunt phase. Start applying to 3 jobs a day, 2 months prior to graduation.

Don't get discouraged if you don't get a ton of requests for interviews in your desired field, right away. Eventually with dedication and perseverance you will land your dream entry-level position or killer internship and get one step closer in your ideal career aspirations. Remember, every skill you gain during this time period can be beneficial to future employers in any field. Happy career goal-setting!

TAGS: Career Goals; Goal-Setting; Internships; Guidance; Undergraduate Studies; Job Hunting; Interviews; Graduation; Future Employers; Transferable Skills