Career Planning Timeline

Start Here

This timeline consists of recommendations for each year you spend at UCI. You may not be able to do everything listed here but accomplishing a few tasks can help prepare you for life after graduation.

First Year

Explore UCI
- Try different courses to help explore majors
- Introduce yourself to professors and visit office hours
- Attend study skills workshops
- See an academic counselor

Explore Career Ideas
- Find a part-time job through ZotLink
- Attend Career Discovery Series panels to learn more about various job industries
- Explore your career interests by joining a UCI student organization

Develop New Skills
- Get involved in residence hall activities, public service projects, and/or student organizations
- Nurture your hobbies
- Balance work and play
- Attend the Part Time Job Fair and look for a part time job at UCI

Important Tip!
Save time by using Career Center Services appropriate for your specific academic year.

Second Year

Gain Specific Information
- Meet with your academic counselor to track your academic success
- Identify possible faculty advisors
- Choose a major (if you have not already done so)
- Investigate study abroad programs
- Get advice from upperclassmen and alumni of your major

Collect More Knowledge
- Learn about careers through the Anteater Career Network - short video clips of UCI alumni and professionals talking about their jobs
- Make an appointment with a career counselor
- Talk with professionals in several careers
- Attend a resume workshop and develop your resume
- Participate in the Job Shadow Program
- Look for and apply to internships
- Attend career fairs
- Take a career assessment and meet with a career counselor

Explore New Roles and Increase Involvement
- Learn about other cultures
- Find a leadership role in a student organization or department
- Volunteer for an organization committee
**Third Year**

**Broaden Your Experiences**
- Supplement your major courses with classes in public speaking, business communication, etc. Employers like to see experience in these areas.
- Study abroad.
- Research graduate schools (if applicable to you) and attend our graduate school fairs.
- Explore and consider research opportunities.

**Test Career Options**
- Develop general awareness of career options.
- Become familiar with job settings and descriptions.
- Talk with a career counselor about your plans.
- Find an internship in your career interest.
- Attend career fairs and the Career Discovery Series.
- Update your resume.
- Conduct informational interviews.
- Set up a LinkedIn account.

**Take Risks and Develop New Skills**
- Run for an elected student office/position.
- Apply for an RA or peer advisor position.
- Work in an office to build basic skills.
- Volunteer for a service project.

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**Fourth Year**

**Gain In-Depth Experience in Your Field**
- Research and apply to graduate schools (if applicable).
- Work on a research project with a professor.
- Prepare your transition from college to the workplace.

**Solidify Your Career Choice**
- Attend workshops on job search strategies, interviewing, and applying to graduate school.
- Develop your job search and career plans with a career counselor.
- Research and develop a target list of potential employers.
- Attend career fairs and meet employers of interest.
- Attend employer information sessions.
- Participate in the On-Campus Interview Program.
- Upload your resume into a ZotLink Resume Book for additional exposure to employers.

**Make Commitments**
- Estimate anticipated financial needs and set a realistic budget.
- Think about what is most important during your first year after graduation: ideal work, lifestyle, proximity to friends and family, values, or long term goals.
- Join a professional organization.

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**Career Center Services**

100 Student Services 1 | 949-824-6881 | career.uci.edu

- **Career Assessments**
  Self-assessments that help students gather information for career decision-making.

- **On-Campus Interview Program**
  Interview with major employers at the Career Center for jobs and internships.

- **UCI Career Center LinkedIn Group**
  Join us on LinkedIn and stay in the loop.

**Pre-Law and Graduate School Advising**
Get advice on graduate school planning and techniques to be a competitive candidate.

**UCDC and Sacramento Internship Program**
Washington D.C. or Sacramento based internships for students of all majors and interests.

**Career Fairs**
Day-long events that provide students an opportunity to meet diverse employers looking to hire students for jobs and internships.

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**ZotLink**
Over 22,000 job and internship listings each year.

**Drop In Advising (Monday - Friday | 11 AM - 3 PM)**
Drop in to speak with a career counselor.

**Individual Career Counseling**
One-on-one appointments with a career counselor to address your most pressing career concerns.

**Job Shadow Program**
Shadow a professional in a career field of interest to you.