

CAREER PLANNING PROCESS

Develop
Skills

Hope College - Office of Career Services

careers@hope.edu

Academic Planning

- Meet with your academic advisor regularly to obtain timely, accurate information about the registration processes, required and elective courses and degree requirements
- Complete introductory courses in your major and take electives to explore possible double major or minor options
- Get to know your major professors well; they are crucial to your success
- If you find yourself struggling in a class, don't wait to [ask for help!](#)
- Begin to plan for [internships](#) and/or [off-campus study experiences](#)

Campus/Community Involvement

- Continue campus involvement in [clubs and organizations](#) - seek out new opportunities as your career interests come into focus
- Gain marketable skills through leadership positions, part-time jobs, [undergraduate research](#), service learning projects and other [volunteer/mission based opportunities](#)

Personal Growth

- Be able to explain to yourself and others why you are leaning toward choosing, or have chosen, a particular major or career direction
- Continue to think about who you are and where you want to go. Continually reassess your interests, goals and academic ability in your chosen field of study

Career Development

- Spend a day or two [job shadowing](#) a professional in your chosen occupation to gather inside information about the nature of the work, specialized knowledge and skills, and employment and advancement opportunities
- Identify the positives and negative features of your chosen occupation and think about the lifestyle and tradeoffs associated with your choice
- If you are still undecided in a major or uncertain about you can do with your major, [meet with a staff person](#) in Career Services to talk through your interests and options
- Participate in [internship](#) or research experience to increase your self-confidence, gain practical experience, and apply your classroom learning to accomplish real-world projects.
- [Internships](#) and [research](#) experiences are great for helping you realize your strengths and weaknesses, develop new skills, work with people from diverse backgrounds and age groups, practice ethical behavior, and learn about career paths related to your major.