FIRST YEAR

Goal: Start thinking about your personal brand and get involved
- Explore your interests, skills and values, and take a variety of classes in subjects that interest you
- Attend major and career development events (i.e., club and employer info sessions, workshops, industry panels, etc.)
- Get involved on and off campus (i.e., join campus groups, volunteer, attend campus events)! Have fun!
- Join clubs and organizations related to your major and other areas of interest
- Work towards and establish a strong GPA
- Review the Entry Level Resume Guide and start writing your resume
- Check out Handshake @ Illinois, The Career Services Platform at Illinois
- Attend multiple career fairs to explore careers and network with employers
- Research and apply for short-term jobs, internships and job shadows during breaks

SECOND YEAR

Goal: Begin career search process, further develop personal brand and get more involved
- Develop and start solidifying your personal brand
- Explore occupations related to your major
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in your field of interest
- Check out career development resources on the MCS and other career websites and attend events
- Update your resume and have it reviewed by career advisors
- Actively use Handshake @ Illinois to check out jobs, internships and upcoming events
- Apply for career-related summer internships – remember to apply early!
- Get to know professors and build relationships with people who can serve as references
- Join or, if already a member, chair committees in RSOs, groups, clubs, etc.

THIRD YEAR

Goal: Obtain a summer and/or semester-long internship
- Explore current job openings by industry and major using Handshake @ Illinois and other resources
- Invest in your professional wardrobe for interviews and formal occasions
- Practice interviewing skills in mock interviews
- Considering graduate school? Explore school and program options
- Network with friends, family and employers; sell your personal brand to them
- Keep your resume up-to-date with your current experiences
- Gain a leadership position in a student organization

FOURTH YEAR

Goal: Obtain a full-time position
- Start the job search and application process early
- Applying to graduate school? Take admission tests, write personal statements and follow deadlines. Better early than late!
- Update your resume
- Think about where you would prefer to live following graduation
- Continue to network with friends, family, employers and alumni
- Ensure you are meeting final graduation requirements
- Attend career fairs and information sessions to talk with employers about specific job opportunities
- Gain a leadership position in a student organization or continue to stay involved in activities