We help you translate your academic and co-curricular experience into professional skills and opportunities from day one.

**CAREER PLAN**

**SOPHOMORE YEAR**

**MAXIMIZE** your NU experience by exploring all the resources available to you.

**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 or "elevator speech" to use to engage employers and alumni.

**CONTINUE** to research 2-3 potential careers/industries using NCA online resources such as WetFeet, Vault, etc.

**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, etc.

**OBTAIN** an experiential learning opportunity to gain exposure to a career field of interest and acquire work experience.

**RESEARCH** fellowship opportunities through the Office of Fellowships for junior and senior year; many fellowships require you to begin preparing during your sophomore year.

**ATTEND** industry-based career treks sponsored by WCAS Student-Alumni Engagement during reading week each quarter.

**DECIDE** on academic major(s), minor(s), or certificate program(s); meet with University Academic Advising if you are considering an inter-school transfer.

**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.

**ATTEND** career panels and events hosted by Weinberg departments and programs.

**UPDATE** your resume in CareerCat, 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.

**APPLY** for relevant fellowship opportunities after meeting with the Office of Fellowships and your NCA career adviser.

**EXPAND** your professional network by attending networking events on or off-campus.

**PARTICIPATE** in NCA Internship & Job Fairs to make connections with employers, pursue specific internship opportunities, etc.

**APPLY** to summer experiential learning opportunities with targeted resume and cover letters; consider Chicago Field Studies (CFS), which is offered fall, winter, spring and summer.

**IF CONSIDERING GRADUATE SCHOOL**, begin developing relationships with at least 2 faculty members who may write recommendations in the future.