

CONSULTING CAREER PLAN FIRST YEAR

Consulting is the practice of helping organizations to improve their performance, primarily through the analysis of existing organizational problems and development of plans for improvement. Within management consulting there are a variety of consulting specializations including: strategy, operations, marketing, IT, financial and human capital. As you engage in career planning be open to experiences outside of consulting while being mindful of the skills you want to develop that are relevant to the consulting industry.

ASSESS

- Connect with your career counselor to identify and reflect on your interests, values, and skills
- Examine how your values align with consulting positions and employers

EXPLORE

- Get involved in student organizations where you can explore your interests and build your skillset through different committees or positions
- Attend campus events sponsored by NCA, academic departments, and/or student organizations to explore the consulting industry
- Enroll in a range of courses that will allow you to explore your interests
- Speak with upperclassman you know pursuing careers in consulting to learn about the industry
- Build your business acumen using resources like: The Economist, Business Week, Fortune, Wall Street Journal
- Engage in case competitions to learn more about the consulting industry

DECIDE

- Conduct informational interviews with Northwestern alumni, industry experts, and/or personal contacts
- Consider summer opportunities that will introduce you to a professional work setting and help you develop new skills
- Attend NCA hosted events sponsored by employers in the consulting industry

ACT

- Convert your high school resume into a professional document and enhance your document using VMock
- Create a LinkedIn and OurNorthwestern profile and build your network by finding and requesting connections with alumni and other professionals
- Utilize Northwestern Network Mentorship Program to find a mentor in the consulting industry
- Actively use Handshake to create a public profile, indicate your career interests, review postings and explore events
- Pursue summer opportunities using targeted resumes and cover letters (NOTE: large consulting firms typically do not target first year students for internships)