

CONSULTING CAREER PLAN SOPHOMORE YEAR

There are limited internship opportunities for sophomores at “brand” name firms. The summer after your first and second year should be focused on skill development so that you can be a competitive candidate for junior year consulting internships. Internships outside of consulting that provide transferable skills will be very valuable.

ASSESS

- Examine your career interests to ensure they are representative of your values, skills, and interests
- Develop and practice a professional introduction
- Meet with a career adviser to understand the internship preparation and recruitment process
- Evaluate your stressors and identify coping mechanisms that are effective for you

EXPLORE

- Identify alumni with similar backgrounds and experiences using LinkedIn and Our Northwestern
- Conduct informational interviews with alumni, industry experts, and/or personal contacts
- Elevate your leadership experience within your student organizations by chairing a committee, initiating a project or managing a budget
- Build your business acumen via resources like: The Economist, Business Week, Fortune, WSJ
- Review company career pages, create a profile and sign up for employer communications (NOTE: Some employers may have early identification initiatives for particular populations)
- Engage in case competitions to learn more about the consulting industry

DECIDE

- Focus on selecting academic major(s), minor(s), and certificate program(s)
- Pursue summer opportunities that allow you to develop a relevant skillset
- Prioritize maintaining a strong academic record and GPA
- Create a recruitment strategy and timeline that utilizes the summer leading into internship recruitment

ACT

- Convert your high school resume into a professional document and enhance your document using VMock
- Create a LinkedIn and OurNorthwestern profile to build your network by finding and requesting connections with alumni and other professionals
- Actively use Handshake to create a public profile, review postings and explore events
- Secure a summer internship that develops and/or enhances a transferable skillset
- Conduct informational interviews with consulting professionals
- Participate in NCA, employer and/or student organization hosted events throughout the academic year
- Study, review and practice mock cases the summer after your sophomore year if you plan to recruit in the fall