CAREER PLANNING STRATEGY FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

Northwestern Career Advancement (NCA) welcomes you to Northwestern University! This checklist of career-related tasks will help you to become familiar with NCA's resources and services for undergraduate students.

It is common to feel overwhelmed when you arrive to campus, especially with adjusting to the quarter system and noticing some employer recruitment activity happening in the fall quarter. When you arrive to campus, work with a career counselor or career adviser at NCA to create a personalized career strategy based on your unique interests and experiences.

SUMMER

☐ Reflect on your first year(s) of college, specifically on what you learned about yourself. Think about how your skills, values, interests, and experiences intersect and connect to potential career options.

☐ Research multiple careers and industries using resources on the NCA website, including industry overviews and Career Paths by Major.

☐ Research alumni career paths using LinkedIn and the Post Undergraduate Survey Data on the NCA website.

☐ Meet Northwestern alumni and current students at the 'Cats Connect summer networking receptions taking place in select cities throughout the United States.

☐ Introduce yourself to NCA's Career Guide for guidance and advice on career development topics such as networking, exploring careers, the job/internship search, resume samples and more.

☐ Note the “Hiring Activity by Industry” timeline on the last page of the Career Guide to see when specific industries recruit for internships that start in the following summer. Notice that only certain industries will recruit early in the fall, and other industries recruit in the winter and spring.

☐ Continue to utilize the resources of your former institution if you are searching for an internship. Even if the academic year has ended already, you still likely have the credentials to use their platform. New students will receive access to the NCA internship and job portal, Handshake, at the beginning of the academic year.

☐ Enroll in classes that allow you to try out fields that interest you.

FALL QUARTER & BEYOND

☐ Create a Handshake account for gaining access to appointments at NCA with your career counselor and career adviser, NCA-hosted and employer-hosted events, internship and job postings, and online career resources.

☐ Complete your Handshake profile. The more you use Handshake and indicate your preferences, the more the platform will recommended relevant content to you.

☐ Explore your interests by getting involved in one or two student organizations through attending the Student Organization Fair in the beginning of fall quarter and by looking at Wildcat Connection.

☐ Join the Transfer Student Organization (TSO) to connect with other transfer students at events held throughout the year and through their mentor program. TSO's contact information can be found on Wildcat Connection and information on their programming on their social media pages (Facebook and Instagram).

☐ Make an appointment with your Career Adviser through Handshake (Career Center > Appointments) to help you format your resume to include previous school and new Northwestern experiences.

☐ Save the date for the Fall Internship & Job Fair in early October and the Winter Internship & Job Fair at the end of January. Additionally, you can participate in career treks and employer/alumni events to learn about different industries, jobs, and internships.

☐ Get connected to Northwestern alumni through joining the Northwestern Mentorship Program and the Our Northwestern alumni directory.

☐ If you’re considering graduate school, connect with your professors and begin to establish strong relationships for future letters of recommendation.