

Fall 2006/Winter 2007 College Planner

Every Year: Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors

- The 2007/08 FAFSA/Renewal FAFSA is available at: www.fafsa.ed.gov on January 1, 2007. Gather the financial records and materials you need to file.
- Visit your financial aid office. At the beginning of the year, take care of remaining financial aid paperwork.
- Follow up on loans, scholarships (find out which ones are renewable!), part-time employment, work study and other aid. You have a choice about which aid to accept.
- Complete a scholarship search at www.fastweb.com. Apply for as many awards as possible.
- Meet with your advisor to discuss courses, extracurricular activities and career-building options.
- Community service, internships and the right job can help you gain practical experience while building up your resume. In addition, take leadership roles in clubs, activities and volunteer organizations.

Search over 1.3 million scholarships worth over
\$3 billion!

www.fastweb.com

Freshman Year

Fall:

- If have a student loans, ask your financial aid office about entrance loan counseling. It will tell you what your lender expects.
- Build relationships with teachers, counselors, and activity/academic advisors. This will help you obtain recommendations for jobs and graduate school.

Winter:

- If you're not sure about your major, visit your career center to take a self-assessment test.

Bonus Senior Section:

Fall:

- Sign up for on-campus job interviews. Check your career center for workshops on resumes, interview techniques, networking and negotiating.
- Update your resume. Create several different versions that can be used for various job positions.
- Join a professional organization within your intended profession in order to network and make contacts in your field.
- If you're planning to attend grad school, register soon for your required tests: GMAT, LSAT, MCAT or GRE.
- Practice your interviewing skills. Remember to follow up your interviews with a thank-you email or letter to the recruiter.

Sophomore Year

Fall:

- Talk to your career center and academic advisor about possible internships in your area of study.

Winter:

- Declare your major or decide if you will double major.
- Visit your college career center to find resources to help you select a career.
- Begin to network through your career center, academic advisor and your family to find possible internship opportunities.

Junior Year

Fall:

- Meet with your academic advisor to review what remaining classes you'll need to take in order to graduate.
- Look seriously into finding an internship in your academic or career area of interest.
- Develop, update and refine your resume.
- Attend a job or career fair.

Winter:

- Begin to think about graduate school or employment options; meet with your advisor or career center.

Winter:

- Ask your financial aid office about exit loan counseling. Find out what you need to do to keep your loan in good standing after you graduate.
- Attend career fairs at your college. Bring plenty of resumes, keep all business cards you receive and write thank-you notes to the recruiters you meet.
- Ask your financial aid office about possible tax breaks on your student loans. The interest you pay might be tax deductible if you qualify.
- Familiarize yourself with loan consolidation. You may want to consolidate while in school or in the future, but learning about it sooner can help decide whether consolidation is right for you.