JOB SEARCH CHECKLIST



LSUS Career Services ⦁ SSC – 1st floor, Noel Memorial Library

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| Many organizations with competitive training programs will begin recruiting early in the fall and start making offers as early as November. Industries like investment banking, consulting, and accounting are notorious early recruiters.  Smaller companies which don't have training programs tend to recruit later in the year. So do employers in fields like broadcast communications, advertising, public relations, social media, the arts, and publishing. **Bottom line?** **If you want a full-time job by graduation, start NOW.**  Use the checklist below to determine what resources will be useful to you and collaborate with Career Services to develop a plan of action to apply for and secure a full-time job. |

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| STEP 1: WHAT DO YOU WANT? | |
| What are the industries or fields you are hoping to target? | |
| List examples of positions or job titles you’d like to obtain. | |
| List examples of organizations where you’d like to work. | |
| Where would you ideally like to work? In what specific cities or metropolitan areas would you like to secure a job? | |
| Need help answering these questions? Try the following… | |
| **Career Inventories**  With the guidance of Career Services staff, learn how to use your personal characteristics (values, skills, personality preferences, and interests) to clarify your career goals. Schedule an appointment on Handshake.  **Alumni Tool | LinkedIn 101 | Oct 3 & Nov 21 @ 11 AM, Success Center & Zoom** Use the LSUS Alumni Tool on LinkedIn to see where graduates live, the organizations they work for, and the types of jobs they have. You can narrow the information you see by where they are located, what they studied, what they're skilled at, and how you're connected on LinkedIn. Click on any bar in the Alumni Tool to drill down into specific careers, employers, locations, major, skills, or degree of connection. | **WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS MAJOR? web resource**  Investigate common career paths, types of employers that hire in the field, and strategies to maximize opportunities. Find the tool on the Career Services website. Enter the STUDENTS AND ALUM CAREER RESOURCES page and scroll down to **Choose Your Major or Career**. Under the heading, ***Researching Your Options***, you’ll find a hotlink for **WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS MAJOR?**  **Career Conversations**  Career conversations or *informational interviews* are an excellent way to learn more about options in your field while building your connections with established professionals. While having a conversation with someone in the industry you hope to enter, your goal is to gather information about the field and their background. You do this by preparing a list of questions for your meeting. For more information, review the i**nformational interview worksheet** on the Career Services website. |

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| STEP 2: PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION MATERIALS | |
| Is your resume tailored to the industry and the positions you are targeting? | Have you had your resume critiqued by someone in Career Services? |
| Do you need help writing a cover letter? | Have you had a cover letter critiqued by someone in Career Services? |
| Have you identified references and created a reference list? | Will you need a portfolio or writing samples for any applications you submit? |
| Need help getting prepared?  Try the following… | |
| **Resume Writing | Sep 26 & Nov 7 @ 11 AM, Success Center & Zoom**  Discover how to highlight your qualifications, target employers, and develop an eye-catching resume that gets you noticed! During the hour-long workshop, we’ll collaboratively critique a “bad” resume so that you know what to do---and what not to do---on your own document.  **Resumes on the Run | Nov 5 & Nov 6 from 10:30 AM to 2 PM, Success Center** Use these convenient one-on-one, 15-minute interactions to get tips and advice about your resume ahead of the career fair. Bring a printed copy to Career Services to get help. | **Individual Appointment** Use Handshake to schedule an appointment. Career Services staff will provide you with individualized advice and recommendations about how to improve your resume and cover letter. |

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| STEP 3: KNOW WHERE TO LOOK | |
| Do you have an account with the university’s online job posting site, Handshake? | Do you know how to use Handshake to search for opportunities? |
| Have you identified industry-specific job posting sites? | Do you have a list of companies you are targeting? |
| Have you identified geographic-specific job posting sites? | Are you registered for the Fall 2025 Career and Internship Fair, taking place on November 12? |
| Need help knowing where to look?  Try the following items on the next page… | |
| **Conduct smart Internet searches**  To uncover helpful industry and geographic-specific resources try the following: Google [the name of your major or the industry you hope to enter] + job posting sites. Also, review the MEMEBERSHIP DIRECTORY of the Chamber of Commerce affiliated with your target geographic preferences for ideas about organizations that might have open positions.  **Finding Remote Work | Oct 10 @ 11 AM, Success Center & Zoom** Learn how to tackle the unique challenges that come with finding a remote job. | **Individual Appointment** Use Handshake to schedule an appointment. Career Services staff will assist you in finding resources that fit your individual needs and circumstances.  **LinkedIn 101 | Oct 3 & Nov 21 @ 11 AM, Success Center & Zoom Learn how to use LinkedIn to build a professional online presence, connect with others, and uncover internship and job leads.** |

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| Need help knowing where to look?  STEP 3…CONTINUED | |
| **Preparing for the Career Fair | Oct 31 @ 11 AM, Success Center & Zoom** Learn to navigate the event, explore opportunities, and develop authentic connections with alumni, employers, and graduate/professional school representatives. | **Ace Your Job Search | Dec 12 @ 11 AM, Success Center & on Zoom**  **Most people figure out how to do a job search on the fly. No more winging it! Let us teach you how a 21st century search works.** |

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| STEP 4: NETWORKING | |
| Do you have a LinkedIn profile? Are you a member of LSU Shreveport Alumni group on LinkedIn? | Do you know how to use LinkedIn to a) connect with others, b) participate in groups, or c) research companies? |
| Do you have the financial means to join professional associations affiliated with the industries you’re hoping to enter? | Are you interested in having conversations with professionals in the field you hope to enter? |
| Need help networking?  Try the following… | |
| **LinkedIn 101 | Oct 3 & Nov 21 @ 11 AM, Success Center & Zoom Learn how to use LinkedIn to build a professional online presence, connect with others, and uncover internship and job leads.**  **Join a Professional Association**  Locate and join a professional associate affiliated with your industry (as a student member). Doing so provides direct access to industry information, networking events, company and member directories, and job listings. | **Career Conversations**  Career conversations or *informational interviews* are an excellent way to learn more about options in your field while building your connections with established professionals. While having a conversation with someone in the industry you hope to enter, your goal is to gather information about the field and their background. You do this by preparing a list of questions for your meeting. For more information, review the i**nformational interview worksheet** on the Career Services website.  **Individual Appointment** Use Handshake to schedule an appointment. Career Services staff will assist you in finding resources that fit your individual needs and circumstances. |

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| STEP 5: GET ORGANIZED | | | |
| I am going to commit \_\_\_\_\_ hours a week to my job search. | | | |
| TASK | DATE TO BEGIN | TARGET COMPLETION DATE | NOTES |
| **STEP 1 – CLARIFY JOB TARGET** |  |  |  |
| **STEP 2A – PREPARE A RESUME & COVER LETTER**  *Create a draft, obtain a critique, revise document, and upload to Handshake.* |  |  |  |
| **STEP 2B – PREPARE OTHER MATERIALS**  *Finalize portfolio and prepare writing samples, as needed.* |  |  |  |
| **STEP 2C – PREPARE A REFERENCE LIST**  *Identify at least 3 professional references. Reach out to each to ask permission and to discuss the goals of your job search.* |  |  |  |
| **STEP 3 – CREATE A HANDSHAKE ACCOUNT**  *Post a resume, search opportunities, and review recruiting events.* |  |  |  |
| **STEP 4A – CREATE A LINKEDIN ACCOUNT** |  |  |  |
| **STEP 4B – CONDUCT INDUSTRY, COMPANY, AND POSITION RESEARCH** |  |  |  |
| **BEGIN SENDING OUT RESUMES/COVER LETTERS AND APPLYING FOR POSITIONS** |  |  |  |

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| OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES - INTERVIEWING | |
| **Interview Preparation | Oct 17 @ 11 AM, Success Center & on Zoom Let’s talk about the essentials that you’ll need to nail your interview!**  **Interview Prep**  Use ***Interview Prep***, a mock interview platform,to prepare for internship and job interviews by recording and reviewing your performance in practice interviews. Look for it at the top of the **Find a Job or Internship** section on the STUDENTS AND ALUM CAREER RESOURCES page of the Career Services website. | **Individual Appointment** Use Handshake to schedule an appointment. Career Services staff will assist you in finding resources that fit your individual needs and circumstances. |