

From Freshman Year to Dream Career Know & Be Known Success Pathway

BECOME MORE COMMITTED: Reflect on your God-given identity, gifts, and abilities. Also, assess your skills, interests, and values. When you identify these qualities, you can ROOT more fully into your leadership and character and address places you would like to grow. Our goal for you during this phase is self-discovery, which allows you to push the ROOTS of your beliefs deeper.

### **ACADEMIC PLANNING**

- Meet with your faculty advisor in a timely manner for registration and discussion of a degree plan.
- Complete introductory courses in your major or specialization and take electives of interest.
- Get to know your major professors well; they are critical to your success.
- Continue to work toward a good GPA of 3.2; seek assistance from the SSC, if needed.
- Increase your computer literacy and language skills; these are good skills for all majors.
- Prepare for the first semester to get a summer internship.
- Become involved in departmental activities, such as guest speakers and informal events. \_\_\_ Complete 60-64 credit hours by the end of the second year.

# CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Volunteer and continue involvement in the community.
- Become active in a campus club/student organization to develop leadership skills and networking experience.
- Join an intramural sports team.
- Work on a team project in your residence hall.
- Consider applying for a Student Life Leader position.

#### **PERSONAL GROWTH**

- Be able to explain to yourself and others, why you are leaning toward choosing, or have chosen, a particular major or career direction.
- Continue to think about who you are and where you want to go. Reassess how well your program of study aligns with your professional and personal goals.
- · Meet students from other countries.
- Add a word to your vocabulary every day.

### **CAREER AND LIFE DEVELOPMENT**

- Identify the positive and negative features of your chosen occupation and think about the lifestyle and tradeoffs associated with your choice.
- If you are still undecided about a major, make an appointment with the Office of Career Services and use occupational information resources to identify options.
- Take the Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory and maintain updated versions of your cover letter, resume, reference page, and your UM Portfolio.
- Ask a reliable person who knows you, what they see as your strengths and weaknesses.
- Participate in an informational interview with someone in your field of study.
- Target course electives that will enhance your marketability to employers.
- Consider a global experience with a semester abroad.
- Contact professional associations in your career field that may allow student membership.
- · Begin networking for references.
- Start going to local college fairs and asking questions.

## **SECOND SUMMER**

This summer "counts," and is not free; try to do one of these:

- Work at an internship or summer job in an industry or field that you would potentially like to pursue after graduation; if you discover you don't like it, you can still change direction successfully.
- Work at an academically related internship that supports your graduate school plans.
- If, and only if, you can't find one of the above, go to summer school to beef up your chances of graduating ontime and/or to prepare for graduate school.



STUDENT SUCCESS

**Student Success Center** 

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