



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH FLORIDA

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

BUILD YOUR CAREER!

S.T.A.R.T. now

In relation to your Career goals and future educational plans, while there is support at the University level and various other places, the opportunities that you seek out and take advantage of to create your intended desired result are primarily up to you. Whether networking, becoming involved in student organizations, or utilizing your social media experience for career developments, it is important that you make the most of every opportunity and **S.T.A.R.T** now-maximizing your college experience and setting yourself up for success to enter the career field or post-graduate world.

Strategize: Self explore in order to gain an understanding of what your end result might be (I,e: Internship, employment in a specific career field, post-graduation education, etc). Once you come up with your end result(s), it will be important for you to come up with strategies that will enable you to reach your end result. (I,e: Studying Abroad, pursuing a Minor or double Major, joining relevant student organizations, seeking out Internship opportunities, volunteer opportunities, etc)
Resources for self-exploration: <http://www.usf.edu/career-services/> or <http://www.myplan.com/> or <http://involvement.usf.edu/>

Target: Once you identify the strategies which you plan to pursue to help you reach your end result, it will be important for you to accurately and realistically come up with a plan to target those strategies that will connect you to/promote positive progression toward your end result.

Act: Once you identify your strategies and come up with your plan to target those strategies, it will be important for you to wisely act on your plan in a way that will empower strategic progression toward your goal/end result.

Review: After you have put your plan into action, it will be important for you to review and re-assess the information which you have received to see if it has put you close to your goal/end result. If so, how do you plan to implement and/or incorporate this information into your career/post-graduate plans? If the activation of your plan did not put you toward your goal or end result as intended, it will be important for you re-strategize(new strategies), re-target (new plans), and re-act on the new plans which you have put in place to aid your journey of reaching your end result/goal.

Timeline: When you come up with your strategies and plans, it will be important for you to provide yourself with a realistic timeline to implement and review these plans in relation to how they are measuring up to putting you closer to your end result/goal.

It should be noted that the S.T.A.R.T now process is fluid and can be completed several times for one given “end result” or several “end results” as new information is added throughout your journey your direction and goals may change based on your journey/experiences.

Networking

While the learning inside of the classroom is significantly important, at times the learning outside of the classroom can be just as important. As the student begins to lay the foundation for their career exploration journey, an important part of the process, will be for the student to establish the tailor made experience the individual desires to create to compliment the inside of the classroom. With outside of the classroom experiences such as, Networking, Internships, Job Shadowing, Information Interviews, Internship/Career Fairs, and many others, fortunately, for students there are several opportunities in which students can take advantage of that can aid in prosperous career attainment.

Advantages of Networking:

- Learn about career options and define your career goals
- Learn if the career field is the best fit for you
- Learn about the realities of specific careers
- Find out how your skills match specific positions
- Determine the skills and experiences you are lacking for specific positions
- Establish connections with Companies/Employers for potential future Internships and/or Employment opportunities
- Learn from current voices in the field
- Gain experience interacting with professionals
- Set yourself apart from the other candidates-establishing professional connections and gaining applicable current knowledge and skills from those in the field

Ways of Networking:

- Information Interviews
- Job Shadowing
- Social Media (I,e: Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn)
- Internships
- Faculty/student research opportunities
- Career/Internship Fairs
- Campus Employer presentations
- Campus Alumni networking events
- Student organization involvement

Who you can connect to:

- Alumni
- Family members
- Family friends
- Colleagues
- Professionals at companies where you want to work
- Professionals working in the industry you want to learn more about

How to contact:

- Establish a Career Connections account with the USF Career Center
- Find contacts through [LinkedIn](#) or the USF Career Center
- Attend campus organization, department of economics, or USF Career Center events
- Use social media to reach out to potential contacts and companies. Many companies have Twitter accounts and Facebook pages specifically for career related information
- Be prepared! Do your research before contacting
- Have your list of questions ready
- Phone calls are often the most effective in getting a response
- Maintain the relationship. Follow up with your contacts every so often
- Professionally reach out to contacts

Sources:

http://econ.wisc.edu/ecdo/Networking_Success.html

<http://www.career.fsu.edu/>

Resources:

USF Career Services: <http://www.usf.edu/career-services/students/services.aspx>

Quintessential Careers [Informational Interview Tutorial](#)

iSeek [Informational Interview Guide](#)

Job Shadowing: <http://internships.about.com/od/internships101/a/whatisjobshadowing.htm>

Sample Networking Letters: <http://jobsearch.about.com/od/samplenetworkingletters/a/types-of-networking-letters.htm>

Other important things to consider:

<http://money.usnews.com/money/blogs/outside-voices-careers/2011/12/06/how-to-brand-yourself-for-the-job-hunt>

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jacquelynsmith/2013/04/03/how-to-showcase-your-personal-brand-in-a-job-interview/>

<http://www.salary.com/5-ways-to-brand-yourself-get-the-job/>

Hidden Job Market: <http://iseekinteractive.org/blog/2012/01/10/what-is-the-hidden-job-market/>

Additional information (I,e: outside of the classroom experiences, Internship opportunities, or potential off campus job leads

National & Competitive Intelligence Certificate Undergraduate Certificate:

<http://www.usf.edu/business/national-intelligence/>

Career Services: <http://www.usf.edu/career-services/>

Undergraduate Research: <http://lib.usf.edu/undergraduate-research/>

USF Tutoring and Learning Services: <http://lib.usf.edu/tutoring/>

My Plan: <http://www.myplan.com/>

Student Involvement: <http://involvement.usf.edu/>

Education Abroad: <http://educationabroad.global.usf.edu/>

Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement: <http://www.leadandserve.usf.edu/>

<http://leadandserve.usf.edu/leadcsl.php>