Career Planning

Academic Counseling

Speak with your academic advisor about your interests and ambitions. Your advisor will help to explore options and clarify your interests and values.

Discuss your choice of major and continuation school and how your educational plans fit your career plans. You may not realize the great freedom you have in choosing majors and degree programs, and your field of study is probably less rigidly related to your career than you think. Most people in the United States will have several careers in a lifetime — how can you prepare for a changing future?

Talk with CGS faculty. Some of the professors in this college have experience in fields you may be interested in. Talk with them. They will be happy to share their knowledge and experience and to advise you.

CGS Student Services will sponsor many guest speakers from different professional schools and careers. Attend these events and meet the guests.

Also, Career Services hosts sessions on “Choosing a Major” and how your major relates to your career.

Planning Career Development

Boston University's Center for Career Development office suggests freshman and sophomore students should have these points on their career development master plan.

Freshman Year — Increase Awareness

- Get to know your career counselor, Peter Waelsch, or one of the other Career Counselors. Call for an appointment (617) 353-3590.
- Consider that your college experience is preparation for life after BU.
- Make a tentative selection of a major field of study
- Use Seniornet – http://www.bu.edu/careers/ - to contact BU seniors to learn about their experience with different majors.
- Begin your personal development by participating in campus and community activities
- Meet and get to know faculty, administrators, and counselors who can serve as resources during your personal and professional development at college
- Develop a resume with the help of Career Services
- Log on to BUCareerLink and start exploring internship listings
- Attend the Career/Internship Fair in the Spring
- Obtain a summer job or internship and develop skills and confidence
Sophomore Year — Assess and Explore

- Get to know your career counselor, Terry Brown, or one of the other Counselors. Call for an appointment. (617) 353-3590
- Use Seniornet – http://www.bu.edu/careers/ - to contact BU seniors to learn about their experiences with different majors
- Declare your major
- Complete career-related self-assessment inventories
- Utilize the Career Resource Library and read about fields of interest
- Attend a Career Exploration Group (5-week major/career decision-making program)
- Explore the academic and practical requirements for entering a profession
- Utilize BUCareerLink to research job and internship descriptions
- Update your resume
- Develop associations with faculty, administrators, and career counselors
- Attend the Career/Internship Expo in the Spring
- Obtain a summer job or internship related to your potential occupation

Jobs now

The Student Employment office at BU has listings of part-time jobs, summer jobs, and short-term “quickie” jobs. You can call 353-3594 or stop by at 881 Commonwealth Ave for more information.

Internships

The Career Services office at 19 Deerfield Street makes internship listings available online through BUCareerLink. To log on, go to www.bu.edu/careers; BUCareerLink is in the lower right corner. Follow instructions to log in.

Career Services

Boston University’s Center for Career Development offers individual sessions with career counselors, workshops, career exploration groups, a career resource library, internship listings, and a credentials service (this is now outsourced to Interfolio and info is available through Career Services. They are located at 19 Deerfield St. Phone 353-3590 for more information and appointments. Visit their informative website at http://www.bu.edu/careers.

Joyce Rodgers heads the Career Services Center at COM (640 Commonwealth Ave.; 353-3490). This office has a wealth of information about careers in communication. CGS freshmen and sophomores are welcome.

The Career Center at SMG (595 Commonwealth Ave.; 353-2834) has information about careers in management. Freshmen and sophomores at CGS planning to attend SMG are welcome to browse to learn more about careers in management. Counseling and workshops are open only to matriculated SMG students.

Careers in Education can be discussed with Jacqueline Boyle at SED (353-3177) and Terry Brown at Career Services, 19 Deerfield St. (353-3590).
Tests

Interest inventories, such as the “Self-directed Search” and the “Career Decision-making System,” are tests (based on psychological research) used to identify values, skills, interests, aptitudes, and educational experiences associated with various occupations and majors. We offer the Strong Interest Inventory and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). If you are interested in beginning a self-assessment with such a test, you may

- attend a Center for Career Services Workshop
- meet with your CGS academic advisor
- meet with a career counselor at 19 Deerfield St.

Networking

As a member of the BU community, you have a vast network of alumni, faculty, staff, and fellow students to help develop you personally and professionally. Networking can give you a better sense of how to break into certain careers, the variety of organizations in which people work, and what skills you will acquire at BU to reach your goals. It can also lead to internships, volunteer and paid jobs, and connections for jobs when you graduate. A few networking resources to be aware of:

Career Advisory Network (CAN) at www.bu.edu/alumni/careers/can is a University-wide database of over 5,000 BU alumni who volunteer their time to offer career and networking advice to fellow members of the BU community. Search CAN to connect with nearly 400 CGS alumni and thousands of other BU alumni who are working in various industries around the globe.

SeniorNet at www.bu.edu/careers/seniornet is a resource for students who are undeclared, confused, or curious about the many majors offered at BU. SeniorNet provides a way to help you decide if a major is right for you and answer any questions or concerns you may have about a particular major.

Student Leadership is the easiest and best way to network and build your resume. Making Dean’s List, becoming a CGS Dean’s Host or CGS mentor, having an on-campus job, holding a leadership position in a student organization, and volunteering are all great ways to network. You’ll meet people with similar career interests, bond with campus and alumni leaders, and impress potential employers.