

# 4-YEAR STUDENT CAREER PLAN

B.A. African American Studies

	KNOW YOURSELF	EXPLORE OPTIONS	ENGAGE & EXPERIENCE	TAKE ACTION & REFLECT
<b>1ST YEAR: BUILD FOUNDATIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify your career goals and take <a href="#">career &amp; personality assessments</a> to understand your skills, interests, values and strengths</li> <li>Check your <a href="#">major map</a> &amp; verify all first year academic grade requirements</li> <li>Examine success/support options like the <a href="#">Office of Student Advocacy</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore what you can do with your major online 🗣️📄</li> <li>Visit <a href="#">Garnet Gate</a> &amp; the August Student Org Fair to explore and join clubs or orgs for your major</li> <li>Attend the <a href="#">Part-Time Job Fair and All Majors Career &amp; Internship Fair</a> in the fall/spring</li> <li>Apply for <a href="#">scholarships</a> to support your academic and financial success</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage in extracurricular activities to network &amp; develop skills</li> <li>Get involved to build your <a href="#">eight Career Competencies</a> that employers look for</li> <li>Check out <a href="#">What Can I Do With This Major?</a> to see the variety of fields and industries you could work in</li> <li>Consider enrolling in <a href="#">University 201: The World of Work</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for summer experiences related to your goals/interests 🤝</li> <li>Meet with CC to discuss your personal brand, goals &amp; next steps and to develop a customized career plan and resume</li> <li>Attend Career Center workshops &amp; presentations</li> </ul>
<b>2ND YEAR: EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take the GradStats <a href="#">personality assessment</a> &amp; review your custom personality report 📄</li> <li>Reflect on your experiences in relation to career goals and update your resume</li> <li>Review skills to see what areas need more development 🗣️</li> <li>Consider new experiences, part-time jobs and leadership roles</li> <li>Review <a href="#">course descriptions</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the <a href="#">Career Center Toolbox</a> for additional career readiness resources</li> <li>Attend graduate or professional school events or employer events to learn about different career paths</li> <li>Attend <a href="#">career &amp; internship fairs</a> to gain exposure to programs/jobs</li> <li>Attend Career Center workshops &amp; presentations</li> <li>Investigate <a href="#">Graduation with Leadership Distinction</a> for senior year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider a summer internship and/or participate in <a href="#">job shadowing</a> 🤝</li> <li>Participate in a formal mentoring program through <a href="#">MentorshipHub</a></li> <li>Connect with former supervisors on <a href="#">LinkedIn</a> and ask them to write a recommendation for you on the site</li> <li>Explore <a href="#">research</a></li> <li>Read up on <a href="#">news</a> for your major and attend <a href="#">events</a></li> <li>Consider an <a href="#">interdisciplinary certificate</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review your personal brand, goals &amp; next steps with a CC or PPA</li> <li>Engage in interview preparation &amp; practice — create a document with your most relevant experiences and apply the STAR method 🗣️</li> <li>Explore companies that typically hire USC interns &amp; start building your network 🤝📄</li> <li>Conduct Informational Interviews with <a href="#">alumni</a> &amp; professionals in the field</li> </ul>
<b>3RD YEAR: FIND FOCUS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review past career assessments to see what your top work values and skill sets are during year 3</li> <li>Reflect on your experiences and skills and update your resume</li> <li>Assess your campus involvement and seek leadership opportunities through the <a href="#">Leadership and Service Center</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect with <a href="#">USC alumni on LinkedIn</a> and start a conversation</li> <li>Attend panels, workshops and immersion experiences to gain confidence &amp; grow connections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure a summer internship/co-op, <a href="#">micro-internship</a>, <a href="#">job shadowing</a> or other experiential learning opportunity</li> <li>If considering graduate/professional school, prepare for entrance exams, and contact <a href="#">Pre-Professional &amp; Graduate School Advising</a> for assistance with admission requirements</li> <li>Join clubs or professional organizations related to your specific interests</li> <li>Maintain or develop relationships with <a href="#">departmental faculty</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review your online presence</li> <li>Identify faculty, staff or supervisors who can serve as references for you</li> <li>Meet with your CC to explore various career options &amp; make a plan</li> </ul>
<b>4TH YEAR: PREPARE FOR LAUNCH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflect on &amp; update your profile/professional documents online 🗣️</li> <li>Meet with a CC or PPA to prepare an approach for your final year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research companies and positions you are interested in, and explore career paths, job titles and salaries 🗣️</li> <li>Verify graduation requirements &amp; make sure you are on track for <a href="#">Graduation with Leadership Distinction</a></li> <li>Investigate graduate school vs. full-time job &amp; confirm your path and timeline for applications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Join professional associations/organizations and online forums/groups related to your career interests or academic field</li> <li>Search &amp; set alerts for jobs of interest 🗣️</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask your key connections to write letters of support and/or reference</li> <li>Apply to graduate/professional school programs and/or employment opportunities</li> <li>Engage in interview preparation &amp; practice 🗣️</li> <li>Complete the graduation survey to share your post-grad plans</li> </ul>

## GAMECOCK GRADSTATS DATA

Average Annual Salary of USC B.A. African American Studies Graduates\*

**\$43,331**

\* 5-10 years after graduation



### Skills Employers

Look for (in no particular order)

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Customer Service | Public Speaking     |
| Event Management | Research            |
| Leadership       | Social Media        |
| Microsoft Excel  | Training Management |
| Outreach         |                     |



Legend

CC Career Coach  
PPA Pre-Professional Advisor

- 🤝 Handshake
- 🗣️ Big Interview
- 📄 Gamecock GradStats

sc.edu/career



Career Center

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

# DON'T FORGET THESE IMPORTANT TASKS!

- Build & update your [Handshake](#) profile.
- Create & update [professional documents](#) (resume, CV, references, etc.).
- [Schedule an appointment](#) with Career Coaches and/or Pre-Professional & Graduate School Advising staff.

## »» [DISCOVER EMPLOYERS HIRING YOUR MAJOR](#)

# CAREER CENTER TOOLS

Follow the links provided to explore all of the tools that the Career Center has to offer.

## [BIG INTERVIEW](#) »»

Big Interview is the Career Center's online practice interview resource that allows students & alumni to conduct a mock interview on their own time, accessing thousands of questions that are broken out into general, behavioral & technical questions.

## [CANDID CAREER](#) »»

Candid Career is the premier provider of thousands of informational video interviews featuring industry professionals. Students & alumni can get the inside scoop on careers, as well as advice that will provide an edge in the job search.

## [CAREERSHIFT](#) »»

CareerShift is an online tool that allows students to search, select and store job listings from all job boards and all company job postings. Students & alumni can also find up-to-date contact information for millions of companies.

## [GAMECOCK GRADSTATS](#) »»

Explore the possibilities! Search & view USC students' post graduation career paths: where they work, skills they use, & how much they earn.

## [HANDSHAKE](#) »»

Handshake is the Career Center's online resource for jobs, internships, events and employer connections. Handshake is also where students can find resources and make appointments with a career coach.

## [INTERSTRIDE](#) »»

Interstride is a one-stop-shop that empowers students to thrive internationally.

## [MENTORSHIP HUB](#) »»

Mentorship Hub is an online platform that connects the USC community. The platform provides career support, career resources, and an opportunity to mentor or seek mentorship.

## Other Campus Resource Links:

- [Academic Advising](#)
- [Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning](#)
- [Leadership and Service Center](#)
- [Office of Undergraduate Studies](#)
- [Undergraduate Research](#)

*The Career Center realizes that every student has a unique journey during their time here at the University of South Carolina. All students move at different paces along different paths. We acknowledge your individual needs and will meet you at whatever stage you are in. This document is meant to serve as a milestones guide to help you plan your future and your goals.*