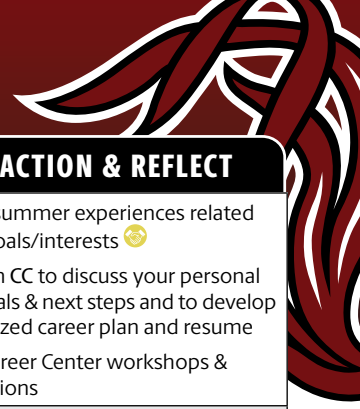


4-YEAR STUDENT CAREER PLAN

B.A. Political Science



	KNOW YOURSELF
1ST YEAR: BUILD FOUNDATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify your career goals and take career & personality assessments to understand your skills, interests, values and strengths Check your major map & verify all first year academic grade requirements Examine success/support options like the Office of Student Advocacy
2ND YEAR: EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take the GradStats personality assessment & review your custom personality report Reflect on your experiences and skills in relation to career goals and update your resume Review skills to see what areas need more development
3RD YEAR: FIND FOCUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check in with your advisor to ensure you are on track for graduation Discuss with a CC or PPA how your 2nd year & summer experiences have better equipped you for success Reflect on your experiences and skills and update your resume
4TH YEAR: PREPARE FOR LAUNCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect on & update your profile/ professional documents online Meet with a CC or PPA to prepare an approach for your final year If not attending grad school, meet with your CC to explore various career options

EXPLORE OPTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore what you can do with your major online Visit Garnet Gate & the August Student Org Fair to explore and join clubs or orgs for your major Attend the Part-Time Job Fair in the fall/spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a minor and take courses that will expand your skill development Attend graduate or professional school events or employer events to learn about different career paths Attend career & internship fairs to gain exposure to programs/jobs Explore study abroad/exchange programs for a global perspective Attend Career Center workshops & presentations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect with USC alumni on LinkedIn and start a conversation Explore courses, trainings or certifications to enhance skills and knowledge Attend panels, workshops and immersion experiences to gain confidence & grow connections Follow employers of interest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research online to know more about the companies and positions you are interested in, and explore career paths, job titles and salaries Conduct a senior audit to make sure you meet graduation requirements Attend fairs & events to gain information about specific jobs, programs & opportunities

ENGAGE & EXPERIENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in extracurricular activities to network & develop skills Get involved to build your eight Career Competencies that employers look for Volunteer with charitable organizations by connecting with the Leadership and Service Center
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take advantage of Beyond the Classroom events Consider a summer internship and/or participate in job shadowing Participate in a formal mentoring program through MentorshipHub Connect with former supervisors on LinkedIn and ask them to write a recommendation for you on the site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure a summer internship/co-op, micro-internship, job shadowing or other experiential learning opportunity If considering graduate/professional school, prepare for entrance exams, and contact Pre-Professional & Graduate School Advising for assistance with admission requirements Explore research opportunities Join professional organizations related to your specific interests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask your key connections to write letters of support or serve as references Join professional associations or online forums related to your career interests or academic field Search for jobs Join relevant professional organizations Join online groups focused on specific careers or topics of interest

TAKE ACTION & REFLECT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for summer experiences related to your goals/interests Meet with CC to discuss your personal brand, goals & next steps and to develop a customized career plan and resume Attend Career Center workshops & presentations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review your personal brand, goals & next steps with a CC or PPA Engage in interview preparation & practice — create a document with your most relevant experiences and apply the STAR method Start or continue volunteering with relevant organizations Conduct Informational Interviews with alumni & professionals in the field Sign up for PoliNote (leave subject line empty; in body type: SUBSCRIBE POLINOTE firstname lastname)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review your online presence Identify faculty, staff or supervisors who can serve as references for you Explore the Career Center Toolbox for additional career readiness resources Research education requirements for careers of interest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply to graduate/professional school programs and/or employment opportunities Engage in interview preparation & practice Complete the graduation survey to share your post-grad plans

GAMECOCK GRADSTATS DATA

Average Annual Salary of USC B.A. Political Science Graduates*

\$78,573

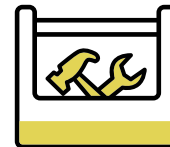
* 5-10 years after graduation



Skills Employers

Look for *(in no particular order)*

Customer Service	Microsoft Excel	Social Media
Event Management	Political Science	Social Networking Service
Interpersonal Communication	Public Speaking	Teamwork
Leadership	Research	
Management	Sales	



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.