

4-YEAR STUDENT CAREER PLAN

B.A./B.S. Sociology



	KNOW YOURSELF	EXPLORE OPTIONS	ENGAGE & EXPERIENCE	TAKE ACTION & REFLECT
1ST YEAR: BUILD FOUNDATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit Garnet Gate & the August Student Org Fair to explore and join clubs or orgs for your major Check your major map for program requirements – B.A./B.S. Examine success/support options like the Office of Student Advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore what you can do with your major online 🗣️📧 Attend the Part-Time Job Fair and All Majors Career & Internship Fair in the fall/spring Join Mentorship Hub and LinkedIn to connect with USC Alumni Explore the Career Center Toolbox for additional career readiness resources Meet with a Career Studio Peer Educator to review your resume Explore Beyond the Classroom opportunities Investigate Graduation with Leadership Distinction or accelerated degree options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify your career goals and take career & personality assessments to understand your skills, interests, values and strengths Attend the Mayhew Lecture Series Explore research in one of the Sociology labs at the Family Inequality Research lab or South Carolina Networks Consortium Explore pursuing an Interdisciplinary Certificate Read up on Sociology news to stay current 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore your options to see where sociology alumni are working and what skills they have developed 🗣️ Get involved to build your eight Career Competencies that employers look for Meet with CAS CC to discuss your personal brand, goals & next steps and to develop a custom career plan & resume
2ND YEAR: EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider new experiences, clubs, part-time on-campus jobs, undergraduate research and leadership roles to gain experience & new skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore trainings & interdisciplinary certifications to enhance skills and knowledge for employability Attend panels, workshops, on-site visits, job shadowing on-site and informational interviews to gain confidence & grow connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure a summer internship/co-op, micro-internship, job shadowing, or faculty research experience 🗣️ Reflect on your experiences and skills and update your resume Review what skills need more development Review past career assessments to see your top work values Keep in touch with professors and past employers for networking and assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start looking for a summer internship or co-op in the fall or consider Study Abroad 🗣️ Explore companies and organizations that typically hire USC interns 🗣️
3RD YEAR: FIND FOCUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess previous involvement & participate in leadership roles Join a new major-related club or organization to network and enhance skills Secure a summer internship to build on skills and enhance professionalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research online to know more about the companies, organizations and positions you are interested in, and explore career paths, job titles and salaries 🗣️ Investigate graduate school vs. full-time job and confirm your path for applications Verify graduation requirements and complete Graduation with Leadership Distinction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update professional documents and online profiles Review your top skills & experiences from the last four years that are most relevant to a professional career 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start thinking about after graduation plans & desired career path and work with a CAS CC to make a game plan Use online resources and the Career Center to connect with alumni and employers Maintain relationships with Sociology faculty
4TH YEAR: PREPARE FOR LAUNCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach out to professors, supervisors, and key connections to write recommendation letters to serve as references Join professional groups and set job alerts for your search Utilize any relevant resources to network and reach out to contacts 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with a CAS CC or PPA to create a plan for your job search or grad school applications Engage in interview preparation & practice — create a document with your most relevant experiences and apply the STAR method 🗣️ Complete the graduation survey to share your post-grad plans

GAMECOCK GRADSTATS DATA

Average Annual Salary of USC B.A./B.S. Sociology Graduates*

\$67,931

* 5-10 years after graduation



Skills Employers Look for

(in no particular order)

Customer Service	Microsoft Excel	Strategic Planning
Event Management	Public Speaking	Teamwork
Interpersonal Communication	Research	Training Management
Leadership Management	Sales	
Marketing	Social Media	
	Social Networking Service	



Legend

- CC Career Coach
- PPA Pre-Professional Advisor
- 🗣️ Handshake
- 🗣️ Big Interview
- 🗣️ Gamecock GradStats



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.