**Freshman Year . . . Explore Your Options**

**Academics**
- Meet with your academic advisor to plan your curriculum.
- Get to know the Learning Assistant in your residence hall.
- Involve yourself in group activities or team-related projects/research.

**Career**
- Register with the Career Development Center through RedHawk JobLink at [www.rpi.edu/dept/cdc/](http://www.rpi.edu/dept/cdc/).
- Read about career options in your major fields of interest.
- Talk with faculty and upper-class students about different majors and careers.
- Attend workshops offered by the CDC – Check out CDC listings on Rensselaer’s Events Calendar at [http://events.rpi.edu/showMain.rdo](http://events.rpi.edu/showMain.rdo).
- Create a resume and learn to write a winning cover letter.
- Research part-time and summer job opportunities – attend Summer Employment workshop.
- Attend a Co-op Orientation Meeting as first-step to getting involved in Co-op Program.
- Attend campus Career Fairs held each fall spring.

**Personal/Social**
- Address your changing relationship with your parents and family.
- Allow time for friends and leisure activities.
- Join a mentoring program. Check out Pathways program at [www.rpi.edu/dept/cdc/student/pathways.html](http://www.rpi.edu/dept/cdc/student/pathways.html).
- Attend the Activities Fair to learn about organizations & clubs on campus.

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**Sophomore Year . . . Collect More Information**

**Academics**
- Obtain information about declaring a major (if you haven’t done so already).
- Make a special effort to get to know some professors.
- Work towards a good GPA; seek assistance from the Advising & Learning Assistance Center, if needed.
- Continue to meet with your academic advisor to seek advice on your curriculum and co-op.
- Increase your computer literacy.

**Career**
- Update your CDC registration through RedHawk JobLink at [www.rpi.edu/dept/cdc/](http://www.rpi.edu/dept/cdc/).
- Meet with a Career Counselor to evaluate your career goals & objectives.
- Shadow a Rensselaer Alumnus/a through the CDC’s Pathways Program. See link on CDC web site.
- Read about careers in the CDC Café / Career Resource Room.
- Update your resume as needed.
- Apply to the Co-op Program at least one semester before planning an assignment.
- Develop your technical skills: explore career-related internships and undergraduate research projects.
- Attend campus Career Fairs held each fall and spring.

**Personal/Social**
- Join or start a club, get involved! Employers like to see evidence of extracurricular activities.
- Work on a team project in your residence hall or sorority/fraternity.
- Join an intramural sports team.
- Make an effort to meet students from other countries.
- Consider applying for the Professional Leadership Program through the Archer Center.
Junior Year . . . Gain Experience

**Academics**
- Add a double major, minor or concentration in another field to expand your career options.
- Become a student member or leader in your professional association.
- Attend seminars sponsored by your department.

**Career**
- Update your CDC registration through RedHawk JobLink at www.rpi.edu/dept/cdc/.
- Meet with a counselor to identify your values, interests, and goals related to post-graduate options.
- Continue to participate in the Pathways Program.
- Attend campus Career Fairs held each fall and spring.
- Obtain experience in your field of interest (co-op, summer job, undergraduate research project).
- Attend a Graduating Student Services workshop to prepare for on-campus recruiting.
- Check dates for graduate school admission tests.
- Begin planning for graduate school application process.
- Check out RedHawk JobLink for additional opportunities.

**Personal/Social**
- Seek leadership opportunities; run for an elected office.
- Consider applying for a Resident Advisor position.
- Explore community service activities.
- Begin to develop a list of professional & academic references.

Senior Year . . . Make Decisions

**Academics**
- Finalize course selections and be sure you meet graduation requirements.
- Send out graduate school applications and complete appropriate financial aid forms on time.
- Develop a senior project.

**Career**
- Update your CDC Registration.
- Analyze and summarize experiences gained from past four years. Assess your career-related strengths and skills.
- Examine your career-related values.
- Update your resume.
- Make sure you are registered with the CDC for Graduating Student Services.
- Participate in on-campus recruiting for two semesters prior to graduation.
- Attend Job Search and Interviewing Techniques workshops.
- Practice your interview skills: sign up for a video-taped Mock Interview in the CDC.
- Network with professors, on-campus speakers, family and friends to develop prospective contacts.
- Conduct an off-campus job search.
- Check out RedHawk JobLink to identify additional job opportunities.

**Personal/Social**
- Evaluate your lifestyle interest and values to determine your post-graduation plans.
- Periodically review your career and life goals.
- Be aware of changing relationships with parents, siblings, friends, and significant others.
- Develop a budget and evaluate financial responsibilities.