Plan for Career Success

It is never too early to think about and plan for your future! Take the time to think about the skills you need to develop and experiences you need to have to prepare for your professional career, or move to the next level. Explaining your strengths and experiences with compelling examples will be an important step as you apply for jobs and further education. Use this map as a guide, and see the Career & Professional Development website for additional resources.

Build Skills and Experiences Employers Look For

Employers seek a variety of skills, knowledge and experience when hiring for professional roles. While specific needs vary by industry and employer, recent surveys* indicate the top skills they seek are as follows:

1. Strong oral and written communication skills
2. Ability to work in teams and collaborate
3. Ethical judgment and decision-making
4. Critical thinking and analytical skills

Employers also look for job-specific knowledge, relevant technology skills, and the ability to apply knowledge and skills to real world settings. These are learned through internships, volunteer leadership roles and relevant jobs related to your career interests.

Get the Help You Need

Mercy College provides you with a large number of support services from the time you enter the college through graduation. We offer a personalized learning experience that includes the College’s Personalized Achievement Contract (PACT) program. PACT is a nationally recognized mentoring program that serves as a model for student success. Your PACT mentor is your point person who helps you navigate college life.

Mercy College promotes student learning and holistic development by offering programs and services that support students’ academic development, inspire personal growth, and foster interpersonal connections and collaboration to prepare students for success in our diverse community and beyond. Check out the Division of Student Affairs website for available resources.

The Career and Professional Development team at Mercy College offers tools, training, and exposure to opportunities that empower our students to take ownership of their career success. Attend our events, career fairs and programs to learn and practice career skills, or see a counselor to get tips on finding internships or jobs, to practice interviewing, or to hone your professional resume. Our website also contains videos, resume formats and other useful tips to help our students prepare for their professional careers.

### MEDIA STUDIES - MAJOR to CAREER MAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st PHASE</th>
<th>2nd PHASE</th>
<th>3rd PHASE</th>
<th>4th PHASE/FINAL YEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEET WITH YOUR PACT MENTOR AND ACADEMIC UNIT HEAD TO DISCUSS YOUR MAJOR INTERESTS.</td>
<td>PARTICIPATE IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS NECESSARY TO BUILD VALUABLE WORKPLACE SKILLS. STRIVE TO PRODUCE YOUR BEST WORK TO BE USED IN YOUR PORTFOLIO.</td>
<td>MEET WITH YOUR PACT MENTOR AND ACADEMIC UNIT HEAD TO ENSURE YOU ARE ON TRACK TO GRADUATE.</td>
<td>CHECK IN WITH YOUR PACT MENTOR TO ENSURE ALL COURSE REQUIREMENTS ARE MET. APPLY TO GRADUATE! DEGREE CONFERRAL APPLICATION DEADLINES ARE LISTED IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 111, MEDA 209 or 211, MEDA 145, SPCM 110, &amp; Critical Inquiry</td>
<td>ENGL 111 &amp; MEDA 130, 134, 145</td>
<td>Upper level major courses, secondary concentration and thesis preparation</td>
<td>MEDA 400 Senior Thesis and upper level major courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDA 115, 120 or 110 &amp; MEDA 145 ENGL 111 &amp; SPCM 110</td>
<td>200 level major courses</td>
<td>Upper level major courses and secondary concentration in newspaper publication</td>
<td>Upper level major courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>If not already working, get a job to gain experience. It is best if the job is in your field of interest but all work experience has value. If applicable, apply for Federal Work Study jobs in Career Maverick to start building relevant work skills right on campus.</td>
<td>Start learning about internships in your career interests and how to secure one. See your Academic Unit Head or career counselor to learn more. Try to get work experience in a field of interest. See Career Maverick for opportunities. Consider studying abroad to gain international experience.</td>
<td>Complete a required internship for credit in your field (MEDA 399). Up to nine internship credits in the major are encouraged. Apply for an internship grant if unpaid. Perform research to deepen your understanding of a relevant topic. Write or produce content online regularly through a blog, Vimeo, WordPress, YouTube or other social media accounts.</td>
<td>Complete your second and third internships, if possible. Continue to build your portfolio, and present at conferences, shows, seminars, etc. Continue to write or produce content online regularly. Attend Mercy College career fairs and events to learn about opportunities, and connect with employers looking for talent.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND MAKE PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS

### CONNECT WITH OUR MERCY COMMUNITY

### GAIN LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE EXPERIENCE

### GET READY FOR YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

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### CAREER EXAMPLES

**Where could I go after graduation?**

### Degree Options:

- **Bachelor of Science in Media Studies**
  - **Concentrations:** Film, Culture, Journalism, Radio and Television Production

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### Connections

- **Film/Culture**
  - Consultant, Academic Guidance
  - Program Map
- **Journalism**
  - Consultant, Academic Guidance
  - Program Map
- **Radio/TV Production**
  - Consultant, Academic Guidance
  - Program Map

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**CAREER EXAMPLES**

- **Radio Production:**
  - Radio Announcer, Audio Mixer
  - Facility Manager, Tape Operator
  - Manager, Lighting Director
  - Stage Manager, Post Production
- **Film/Culture:**
  - Librarian, Production Manager
  - Production Coordinator, Video Graphics Producer
  - Video Editor, Scriptwriter
  - Technical Director, Talent Management and Representation
- **News:**
  - Novelist, Magazine Writer
  - Freelance Writer, Non-fiction Novel
  - Copy Editor, Feature Writer
  - Reporter, News Editor
  - News Reporter, Sports
- **Advertising:**
  - Media Development, Politics
  - Media Sales, Arts Education, Film Distribution
  - Relations, Media Sales
  - Museum and Library Curation, Representation, Copy Writing, Talent Management and Representation, Copy Writing, Museum and Library Curation, Arts Programming, Public Relations, Media Sales, Arts Education, Film Distribution and Publicity, Grants Management, Human Resources, Interactive Media Development, Politics

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**For those with a passion to get ahead**

- **Media, Marketing & Communications**
- **Film/Culture**
  - Reviewer, Critic, Film Historian, Merchandising, Advertising Sales and Design, Market Research, Talent Management and Representation, Copy Writing, Museum and Library Curation, Arts Programming, Public Relations, Media Sales, Arts Education, Film Distribution and Publicity, Grants Management, Human Resources, Interactive Media Development, Politics

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**JOURNALISM**

- News Reporter, Sports Reporter, News Editor, Copy Editor, Feature Writer, Freelance Writer, Non-fiction Novelist, Magazine Writer, Entertainment Critic, Public Relations Writer, Media Relations Specialist

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**RADIO AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION**

- Producer, Camera Operator, Scriptwriter, Technical Director, Graphics Producer, Video Editor, Production Coordinator, Video Librarian, Production Manager, Stage Manager, Post Production Manager, Lighting Director, Facility Manager, Tape Operator, Radio Announcer, Audio Mixer

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*Some careers may require further education/training/credentials.