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.

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Science

Specializations:
- Community Health
- Gerontology
- Health Services Management

WHY STUDY BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE?

This degree program is distinct from other types of degrees because of its flexibility. Students get to truly ‘chart their own path’ when they major in Behavioral Science, a feature that invites creativity in creating a program that is almost fully self-designed. Outstanding and experienced full-time faculty teach our courses in Sociology and Psychology. In addition, Behavioral Science students benefit from many adjunct faculty who bring ‘real world’ experience to the classroom. The opportunity to interact with Professors who are working in fields related to Behavioral Science means that students have access to career guidance from Professors with extensive experience, and are exposed to a wide range of careers.
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE
MAJOR to CAREER MAP

1st PHASE

**Take the courses you need**
- PSYN 101, SOC1 101, CISC 120
  - Meet with your PACT Mentor to discuss your major interests.
  - Use the Academic Program Sequence map to create your academic plan.

**Get relevant experience and make professional connections**
- 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.
- Attend Career & Professional Development events to start learning early.
- Join a club on campus such as the Behavioral Sciences Club or the Psychology Club. Join Student Government! Employers love to see campus involvement.

**Connect with our Mercy community**
- Volunteer for events such as fundraising for causes, or assist with a community event for a youth group, a political group, or a religious organization. You will build skills, connections and make a difference.
- Make a commitment to an organization that helps others. A few examples are the American Red Cross, the United Way, or local community or religious organizations.
- Attend senior events held by Student Life and Mercy Maverick to start building relevant work skills right on campus.

**Gain leadership and service experience**
- Attend a career fair and outreach for your career community.
- Complete an internship for credit in your field (BHSC 399). Apply for an internship grant if unpaid.
- Attend Career Maverick for opportunities.
- Consider studying abroad to gain international experience.
- If applicable, apply for Federal Work Study jobs in Career Maverick to start building relevant work skills right on campus.
- Join an Honor Society such as Pi Gamma Mu and get involved.
- Make yourself known to your Professors and key staff to get involved.

**Get ready for your professional life after graduation**
- See your PACT Mentor to discuss your major to career interests. Check out Focus 2, the free Mercy College career exploration tool.
- Continue to update your resume. Create your elevator pitch, a 30-second speech that summarizes who you are, what you do and why you would be a perfect candidate. Learn how to interview successfully.
- Review the many career resources available on the Mercy website.

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE
DEGREE OPTIONS
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FOR THOSE WITH A PASSION TO GET AHEAD
CAREER EXAMPLES
Where could I go after graduation?*
- Human Services & Education
  - Community Mental Health Services
  - Family & Marriage Counseling
  - Mental Health Counseling
  - Substance Abuse Counseling
  - Education
  - Psychology/Psychiatry
  - Social Justice
  - Social Work
- Public Service, Law & Government
  - Community Education
  - Crime Prevention
  - Political Offices & Campaigns
  - Public Policy & NGO
  - Government Offices & Agencies
- Media, Marketing & Communications
  - Communications & Broadcasting
  - Corporate Communications
  - Marketing
  - Public Relations
- Accounting, Finance & Business
  - Business Management
  - Non-profit Management
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Human Resources
  - People Operations
- Health & Wellness
  - Administration & Support Services
  - Community Health Services
  - Corporate Wellness
  - Health Promotion
  - Patient Advocacy
  - Public Health
- Clinical Healthcare
  - Clinical Psychology
  - Communication Disorders
  - Nursing
  - Physician Assistant
- Science, Technology and Math (STEM)
  - Psychology Research
  - Science Research
  - Statistics
  - Data Science
- *Some careers may require further education/training/certifications

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