Career development is a journey that involves creating, developing and refining goals over time. The sooner you begin to focus on career development, the better prepared you will be to identify and pursue the opportunities available to you.

The Center for Career Development will empower you with extensive career education programs, individual career advising services and comprehensive resources designed to help you assess your skills, interests, values and experiences as you explore career options and develop targeted strategies for pursuing these goals.

**Critical Steps: Two things you really must do this year!**

**1. Activate Handshake**
Visit Handshake, our online career management system, early in your first semester to activate your profile and select your early career interests.

- All incoming first-year students have access to Handshake through single sign-on. Activate and personalize your account as soon as possible in your first semester in order to receive pertinent updates and notifications about events, programs and internship opportunities. Get familiar with Handshake now to leverage this primary gateway for all career opportunities!

**2. Create your Résumé**
Build a strong college-level résumé by your second semester to showcase your college experiences (including on-campus roles) to potential employers.

- To maximize impact, have your résumé critiqued by a career adviser. You can schedule an appointment or simply drop by the center anytime from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays for immediate “walk-in” service. Your résumé highlights your academic and extracurricular achievements and is a living document you can enhance as you progress from early exploration to career readiness.

---

**Get Ahead! Five additional optional steps for career exploration and success**

**Investigate Majors**
Visit the Center for Career Development to get an early start on your career planning. Meet your career adviser to discuss potential majors and associated career paths that might best fit you. Even if you’re confident of your major/ career path, discussing this with your professional career adviser can help confirm your decision.

**Assess**
Schedule an assessment through the Center for Career Development to understand how your interests, skills, values and personality may relate to potential career options. Your career adviser will help you through assessment resources such as the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and Strong Interest Inventory.

**Network**
Identify several potential career options of interest to you and explore them further by talking to professionals in the field. Leverage DCAN (Davidson Career Advisor Network) to access career coaching. Take advantage of the opportunity for a career conversation, résumé review or mock interview from industry experts and friends of Davidson.

**Explore**
Gain firsthand experience in a career field or profession by applying to the Job Shadowing Externship Program. Through the program, you can visit the workplace of a host industry expert during the spring or summer for an in-depth one-day or multi-day experiential learning opportunity.

**Apply**
Gain first-hand experience in a career field or profession by applying to the Job Shadowing Externship Program. Through the program, you can visit the workplace of a host industry expert during the spring or summer for an in-depth one-day or multi-day experiential learning opportunity.