



## Career Readiness: Four-Year Roadmap

### **Year One: Self-Exploration and Academic Foundations**

**Goal:** Acclimate to Penn State and begin your career journey.

#### **CAREER LANE**

Sign in to Nittany Lion Careers and update your profile.

Attend the [Campus-Wide Involvement Fair](#) or explore student orgs via [Penn State Discover](#).

TIP: Find one that matches your career interests and another just for fun!

Meet with a Liberal Arts Career Coach at least once per semester. Schedule through Nittany Lion Careers.

Develop your first Liberal Arts résumé and have it reviewed by a Career Coach.

Stay informed about events and networking opportunities through the Liberal Arts events calendar.

Check the Liberal Arts newswire—sent every Monday to your Penn State email.

#### **ACADEMIC LANE**

Complete LA 83 First-Year Seminar in Liberal Arts.

Meet your [academic adviser](#) each semester to plan your future classes.

Strengthen academic, study, and time management skills at the [Liberal Arts Chaiken Center for Student Success](#).

Explore studying abroad with your academic adviser and Penn State Global.

#### **SUMMER**

Complete a LinkedIn Learning course to build marketable skills in business, technology, creativity, mental health, and more.

Conduct an [informational interview](#) with a Penn State Liberal Arts alum through [LionLink](#) to learn about career fields.

### **Year Two: Exploration and Engagement**

**Goal:** Solidify your career and major decisions through experience.

#### **CAREER LANE**

Match with alumni based on career and/or major interests through the Liberal Arts Alumni Mentor Program. Apply between August–October.

Take LA 103 Professional Development for Liberal Arts Students to build key career skills.

Gain experience through part-time work, volunteer experiences, and student organizations.

Meet with a Liberal Arts Career Coach to explore research, internships, and study abroad

TIP: Ask about financial support through Liberal Arts enrichment funding for these out-of-the-classroom activities.

Stay informed about career focused events through the Liberal Arts events calendar and weekly newswire.

Explore Penn State Pre-Law Advising or Penn State Prehealth Advising if applicable

#### **ACADEMIC LANE**

Connect with faculty for research opportunities.

Finalize your education abroad plans with your [Academic Adviser](#) and Education Abroad Adviser.

Declare your major by the end of your fourth semester. Consider adding a minor or certification. Work with your academic adviser to make sure you are on track to graduate.

#### **SUMMER**

Meet with a Liberal Arts Career Coach virtually or in-person to prepare for internship recruitment during August–October.

Continue building transferable skills through LinkedIn Learning.

Apply for a [LionLink](#) project to advance your career goals with real-world work.

# Career Readiness: Four-Year Roadmap

## Year Three: Experience and Expand

**Goal: Deepen your experience, expand your network, and build marketable skills.**

### PIT STOP

Take LA 103 Professional Development for Liberal Arts Students if not completed.

### ROAD TO INDUSTRY

Meet with a Liberal Arts Career Coach to reflect on your experiences and refine your career and internship plan.

Update your résumé, practice interviewing, and attend networking events.

TIP: Find sample résumés, interviewing, and networking tips through the Find a Resource page.

Stay informed about [career fairs](#) and information sessions through Nittany Lion Careers.

Build leadership skills by serving on the executive board within a student organization.

Apply for internships that align with your career goals and interests. Organize your search through the Internship Tracker.

Rejoin the Liberal Arts Alumni Mentor Program.

Build your [LinkedIn profile](#) and digital portfolio (if applicable).

### ROAD TO GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

Meet with a Liberal Arts Career Coach to reflect on your experiences, determine application timelines, program options, entrance exams, recommendations, and more.

Attend Graduate and Professional School Week, and other career events such as [Love Liberal Arts Week](#). View the Career Enrichment Network calendar for upcoming programs.

Begin grad school research. Organize your search through the Grad School Application Tracker.

Build relationships with professors for additional career support and recommendations.

Ask faculty members about on- or off-campus research opportunities.

Rejoin the Liberal Arts Alumni Mentor Program.

Explore Penn State Pre-Law Advising or Penn State Prehealth Advising if applicable.

### SUMMER

Gain experience through an internship, research, global experience, or volunteerism to strengthen your résumé.

If applicable, study for graduate school entrance exams (LSAT, GRE, and MCAT). Take the exam in summer or early fall.

## Year Four: Planning and Transition

**Goal: Prepare for life after Penn State: full-time work, graduate school, or other paths.**

### ROAD TO INDUSTRY

Schedule a meeting with a Liberal Arts Career Coach to finalize your post-grad plans.

TIP: Have them review your updated résumé and cover letters and help with interview preparation.

Utilize Nittany Lion Careers to apply for full-time positions and attend networking events including [Fall Career Days](#).

Apply for full-time jobs, fellowships, or service programs. Use the Job Search Tracker to organize your search.

Rejoin the Liberal Arts Alumni Mentor Program.

### ROAD TO GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

Meet with a Liberal Arts Career Coach early in the fall semester to review application materials.

Gather application materials including personal statements, résumés, transcripts, writing samples, application fees/online forms, and test scores.

Request letters of recommendation. Give the recommender a minimum of two weeks to complete.

Attend Graduate and Professional School Week and career events listed on the Career Enrichment Network calendar.

Rejoin the Liberal Arts Alumni Mentor Program.

Submit applications. Most due dates occur November through March.