

Discover



Discovering Career Options

Your time in CASNR is one of personal growth and discovery. You are experiencing new classes, meeting new people and getting introduced to the broader view of where your time at OSU may lead. Answer the question “what’s out there for me?” Learn about opportunities that fit with your interests, skills and talents. Use this time and the resources available in CASNR to learn more about who you are and what you want to do after graduation.

Discover	Recommendation	Purpose	Path
	Complete a career assessment and discuss the results with a Career Services staff member.	Career assessments are tools used to help individuals define their career-related interests, skills and abilities, and work values. These tools also often provide suggestions of compatible career fields for further information gathering and consideration. While career assessments do not provide exact answers for a career direction, they may be help you find a starting point in exploring career options or may validate compatibility of careers already under consideration.	Schedule an appointment with a Career Services staff member to discuss assessment options and to start the career assessment process.
	Identify majors connected to career interests and read descriptions of courses required for those majors.	Reading course descriptions for classes in an academic major related to a career under consideration will provide insight into what you would be learning in the classes and the knowledge you would be using in the career. A strong sense of interest and excitement could indicate a good fit, while a sense of fear or indifference could indicate another choice may be a better option.	Visit the OSU Registrar website, registrar.okstate.edu. Major class requirements may be found under the “Degree Requirements” menu. Follow the link for the “University Catalog” to access the “Online Course Descriptions.”
	Brainstorm a list of possible future employers of interest.	Making a list of companies, agencies, non-profits, or other organizations you have thought “They’d be cool to work for.” This can provide you with a foundation of ideas for exploring possible career options.	Career ideas can come from everywhere and anywhere – a movie or TV show, a product you bought at the local superstore, an 18-wheeler you passed on the highway, a guest speaker in a class, and many more places. Keep your smartphone or a notepad handy and record your thoughts for further investigation. Look up the website of these potential future employers to learn about their typical positions.
	Read job descriptions related to career interests.	Reading the typical work tasks within job descriptions can help you identify both what you would and would not like to do in a career. For those positions with responsibilities of interest to you, the qualifications listed also can help you understand how to develop your education, activities, and experiences while in college in order to be a good candidate for that specific career direction.	The OSU Hire System at HireOSUGrads.com, specific employer websites, professional organization job listings, and industry-specific job search sites are just a few of the places you may find job postings or descriptions to read and analyze.

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Create a résumé or update a previous résumé and have it reviewed by a Career Services staff member or trained volunteer.	Résumés are ever-changing documents, transforming with each new experience and with each new intended purpose. During the exploring and learning process, creating new résumé or updating an existing one can help you identify gaps in skills and experiences necessary to achieve career options under consideration.	If you do not know where to begin in developing a résumé, visit the “how to” resources available online at casnr.okstate.edu/careerservices . Once you have a rough draft developed, bring it by the CASNR Student Success Center, 103 Ag Hall, to have it critiqued.
Establish relationships with faculty members, advisors, peers, alumni and campus staff.	Getting to know the people connected to an academic major and career direction you are considering can help you obtain a human perspective of what it is like to study and work in that discipline. These connections can also assist you in building and expanding your professional network.	Visit with your professors after class, during their office hours, or schedule an appointment to discuss a faculty member’s discipline with him or her. Attend discipline-specific student organization meetings, alumni panel discussions and other activities.
Attend career development workshops, presentations and events.	Career Services workshops, presentations, and events are not just targeted at students currently looking for jobs. Some events are specifically designed to help students seeking career direction with gathering information about exploration strategies, learning about possible career opportunities, meeting people important to the exploration and learning processes, and with other helpful steps.	Visit the OSU Career Services website, hireOSUgrads.com to find a schedule of campus-wide career events. Find out about workshops, presentations and events coordinated by CASNR Career Services by visiting casnr.okstate.edu/events and following CASNR’s social media channels.
Take classes related to career areas you are considering.	Through your research and conversations, if you have narrowed your options of potential careers and/or academic majors to a few but still need some additional support to be comfortable committing to a specific academic decision, taking an introductory course in an academic major you are considering can be an effective strategy for determining if you like that option.	Visit the OSU Registrar website, registrar.okstate.edu . Major class requirements may be found under the “Degree Requirements” menu. Follow the link for the “University Catalog” to access the “Online Course Descriptions” for all OSU classes. Currently admitted students may enroll in classes online at prodosu.okstate.edu .
Activate your OSU Hire System account, complete your profile and upload your résumé.	As previously mentioned, reading job descriptions can help you identify careers of interest and understand the necessary qualifications for job entry. The OSU Hire System provides one medium for discovering job announcements. Additionally, the Hire System is a resource for finding internships, part-time jobs and work-study opportunities, where you can “try on” different fields of interest on a short-term or temporary basis while also gaining valuable work experience.	Visit the OSU Career Services website, hireOSUgrads.com and go to the “Student & Alumni” section. Select the “Hire System Login” tab on the left-hand navigation menu. Select the “New User?” option and follow the directions for account set up. Once inside the Hire System, use the options under “My Profile” in the top navigation to complete your profile and upload your résumé.

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Create a LinkedIn account, including a professional photograph.	LinkedIn is a social media platform for online professional networking. Through the use of LinkedIn, you can connect with alumni and other industry professionals you have met through various means to further develop valuable networking relationships and gain their perspectives about careers of interest. Additionally, many organizations have LinkedIn pages members may follow to learn more about the organization, their initiatives and opportunities.	Set up a LinkedIn account at linkedin.com. Varying levels of LinkedIn subscriptions are available, including a free subscription option. LinkedIn also has an app for both Apple and Android products. The site has helpful information about account set up and use under the “Help” menu. Career Services staff also can provide guidance in maximizing your LinkedIn usage.
Conduct informational interviews and/or job shadow professionals in career fields of interest.	Reading about different majors and career fields is a good exploration step, but asking questions of people in those fields or witnessing “a day in the life” can provide even greater perspective of the necessary preparation, daily tasks, current challenges, and future directions associated with career options under consideration.	Visit with a Career Services staff member, your academic advisor, your peers and other network connections to seek out referrals and contact information for individual professionals in your career fields of interest.
Attend career fairs and employer information sessions.	What better way to face the statement “I just don’t know what’s out there” than to attend employer recruitment events like career fairs and informational sessions, where employers are recruiting for currently open positions. The internships and full-time jobs employers will be seeking to fill during these events won’t be that different from the ones employers will seek to fill when you are looking for an opportunity in a few months or years.	Visit the OSU Career Services website, hireOSUgrads.com to find a schedule of campus-wide career events, including career fairs and employer information sessions. Stay informed of employer-student connection events coordinated by CASNR Career Services by visiting casnr.okstate.edu/events and following CASNR’s social media channels.
“Try on” career fields of interest through volunteer opportunities, part-time jobs, research experiences and/or internships.	It’s better to experience a career field of interest through a short-term student experience and either confirm it is a great option for you or learn it is not what you want to do, than to accept a permanent full-time job after graduation and figure out it’s not what you want. Career-related volunteer opportunities, part-time jobs, research experiences and/or internships allow you to “try it on” to determine career fit with no long-term commitment.	Meet with a Career Services staff member and your faculty advisor to identify potential experiences of benefit to your career decision-making process. Both resources can guide you in learning how to get involved and/or seek out such opportunities.

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<p>Get involved in student organizations and participate in co-curricular activities.</p>	<p>Participating in student organizations and co-curricular activities makes the college experience fun, but it also serves a purpose for career development by providing great opportunities to build your professional network. Through these clubs and activities, you will meet fellow students, faculty, staff, alumni and other individuals. These individuals represent contacts from whom you can learn about academic and career directions of interest to you, especially if the club or activity is one related to a specific discipline. Additionally, the activities of clubs and organizations provide the chance to develop valuable professional skills, like teamwork and interpersonal communication, which are difficult to teach in a classroom.</p>	<p>Visit OSU's CampusLink website, campuslink.okstate.edu to explore the more than 400 clubs, organizations and activities throughout the Stillwater campus and learn how to get involved.</p>