

Freshman Career Development Guide

You've made it to university- now what?

Starting college is an exciting time, and here at PLU, we're so proud of you for coming this far already. You've worked hard to be here, and we know you'll continue to work hard to graduate. That day will be another amazing milestone that's part of your story, and a critical step toward your vocation and career.

But will good grades and your diploma be enough to land that first job? These are important, yes, but here at PLU we want to make sure you're as prepared as possible to choose, pursue, and succeed in your field of choice. This checklist will help you start off on track to graduate not only with valuable knowledge in your subject of choice, but with the durable skills, relationships, and vision you'll need the rest of your life as a creator, trailblazer, seeker, and reformer.

CONNECT

- ☐ **Create a [LuteLink](#) profile-** LuteLink connects you with PLU Alumni
 - ☐ Complete your profile (2 minutes!)
 - ☐ Look for alumni...
 - ☐ working in a field you're interested in– study their pathway.
 - ☐ who has your same intended major– are they working in a field you'd expect?
- ☐ **Develop relationships** with PLU faculty, staff, and peers.
 - ☐ Meet with a career coach at least once to talk about major/career connections. You can meet with a [PLU Career Coach](#), or connect with an external coach via [TimelyCare](#).
 - ☐ Talk to advisors and faculty in departments you might be interested in.
 - ☐ Visit clubs related to your potential career, talk to other students to learn about how they're pursuing their goals.
- ☐ **Conduct at least one [informational interview](#)** with someone in a field of interest
 - ☐ You can use LinkedIn or LuteLink to find your interviewee.
 - ☐ Check out the [Career Services page](#) or talk to a coach about HOW to have an informational interview.

REFLECT

- ☐ **Complete a values inventory.** What matters most to you?
- ☐ **Take the [PathwayU](#) career assessments.** What careers might be a good fit for you?
- ☐ Use the ["What Can I Do With This Major?"](#) tool to explore ideas based on your academic interests.

- ☐ **Consider your life-vision.**
 - ☐ What do you want a typical day to look like?
At a desk? In a lab? Outside? Working with people?
 - ☐ Is it more important to have a job that pays well so you can do what you love outside of work, or a job that is a closer fit to your vocational calling? What would a middle ground look like?
 - ☐ Do you want to work for an organization, or build your own business? What does that take?
- ☐ **Look at job market growth using [O*NET](#).** Nothing is impossible, but some ideas are more possible than others.
 - ☐ How many openings are there in your dream career? Is there a growing need for people in this field?
 - ☐ Is it easier to find a job in your desired field in another city, state, or country? Is relocation an option for you?
- ☐ Try a course or workshop that expands your understanding of work-related skills (e.g., leadership, collaboration)

ENGAGE

- ☐ **Join a [club](#) or volunteer** with an organization that aligns with your interests
 - ☐ This can help not only with networking and exploring, but building critical leadership, teamwork, and organizational skills
- ☐ Attend at least one career event, employer panel, or alumni speaker session
 - ☐ Keep an eye out for panels or events that center voices underrepresented in your field of interest
- ☐ **Remember: Employers are looking for *durable skills***—abilities like communication, critical thinking, and leadership. These don't come from a major alone—they come from how you engage in campus, work, and community life.

BUILD YOUR TOOLKIT

- ☐ **Create or update your resume** with high school and early college experience— check out our [resume guide](#) to get started!
- ☐ **Meet with a [PLU Career Coach](#) or on [TimelyCare](#)** to review your resume, and practice interview skills
- ☐ **Login to your [Handshake](#) profile** and upload your resume!
- ☐ **Create a LinkedIn profile** and connect with peers or mentors

REMEMBER

This is just the beginning! Sophomore year is all about clarifying and testing your ideas. If you reach the end of your Freshman year still feeling unsure about a major or career path, that is OK! Exploring is action, and we encourage you to stay curious.