

Senior Career Development Guide

Launch with Confidence & Purpose

You've grown, explored, connected, and practiced—now it's time to launch. Senior year marks an exciting transition from student to professional, and while it can feel overwhelming, it's also a chance to celebrate how far you've come. This is the year to focus on refining your goals, building your network, and taking decisive steps toward your next chapter—whether that means starting your career, continuing your education, or pursuing other dreams. You've built the skills and relationships you need—now you get to put them into action with clarity, confidence, and purpose.

CONNECT

- ☐ **Attend networking dinners, internship encounters, or career fairs**—opportunities now often lead to jobs later. Many opportunities are posted on [Handshake](#)!
- ☐ **Schedule [informational interviews](#)** with professionals in your desired field to learn about roles, companies, and next steps. Even if you've done these every year, it's a great practice to keep growing even AFTER college!
- ☐ **Stay in touch with [mentors](#) and faculty**—they may be valuable advisors long after graduation.

REFLECT

- ☐ **Ask yourself:**
 - ☐ How have I grown personally and professionally at PLU?
 - ☐ What have been the most meaningful takeaways from my academic, social, and experiential learning?
 - ☐ How have my values and vision evolved—and where do I want to go next?
- ☐ **Write a “career story” or personal pitch** that highlights how your experiences have prepared you for what's next.
 - ☐ Practice your ability to communicate your story verbally in multiple ways (short introduction versus longer response).

ENGAGE YOUR LAUNCH

- ☐ **Apply for jobs, service programs, or graduate school**—many applications start **3–6 months** before your desired start date.
- ☐ **Secure 2–3 people to serve as references** who can speak to your strengths, growth, and character. Be sure to ask 1-2 months in advance for letters of recommendation.
- ☐ **Polish your resume, cover letters, portfolio, and LinkedIn profile**—each should reflect your skills and direction.
 - ☐ Have a template resume where you keep ALL of your experiences, that you can return to to customize for each opportunity you pursue.
- ☐ **Practice interviewing and salary negotiation** with a coach through [Career Services](#) or [TimelyCare](#)
- ☐ **Track your applications, interviews, and offers** in one place—organization reduces stress.
- ☐ **Attend a final resume or job search workshop** for last-minute feedback and tips.

REMEMBER YOUR “WHY”

Your first step after graduation [doesn't define your whole career](#). What matters most is **aligning your decisions with your purpose, strengths, and values**.

Stay grounded in what drives you, stay open to unexpected opportunities, and stay connected to your community. You've built a powerful foundation—now it's time to go build the next chapter.