TOP 10 CAREER STRATEGIES FOR FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES

You control your career destiny. You need to become active on and off campus. Here are the top 10 things you can do during college to make yourself marketable at job-search time.

1. **Keep your grades up.** Employers and graduate schools want candidates with good grades. Doing well academically not only proves that you have a good knowledge base, but indicates a strong work ethic.

2. **Identify your interests, skills, values, and personal characteristics.** Visit your career center and take advantage of the self-assessment instruments offered.

3. **Actively explore career options.** This is something that very few college students do. In fact, a study has shown that most freshmen and sophomores spend more time deciding on a video to rent than on what they might want for a career, even though a video only lasts two hours while your career can last a lifetime. You owe it to yourself to find a career that enriches your life, not one that brings you down. Actively exploring careers means talking with professionals in occupations of interest (called Information Interviewing) and observing professionals on the job (called Work Shadowing). Also, attend any career fairs and career speaker panels that are offered. You can learn about various career fields by attending these events. Finally, it doesn't hurt to begin the process by reading about careers of interest.

4. **Become active in extra-curricular activities and clubs.** Active involvement in activities and clubs on campus is highly valued by employers. Joining a club is fine, but becoming active within that club is what matters most.

5. **Get involved in community service.** It's important that you begin to understand and appreciate the importance of giving back to your community.

6. **Develop your computer skills.** Computers are changing the world of work. The days of secretaries typing your letters are over. Every worker must know how to type business letters using a word processor. Take advantage of the computer courses and workshops your college offers. You can also learn by experimenting with different software packages on your own.

7. **Develop your writing skills.** Over and over, company recruiters complain about the lack of writing skills among college graduates. Don't avoid classes that are writing intensive. Work at developing your writing skills.

8. **Complete at least one internship in your chosen career field.** More and more, internships are the springboards to employment and graduate programs. In addition to making yourself more marketable, internships also are a great way to explore careers and determine whether or not certain careers are for you. (Check with your instructor for more information.)

9. **Gain an appreciation of diversity through study abroad and foreign languages.** The American workforce is becoming more diverse every year. Also, we are now, more than ever, working within a global workforce. For you to be successful at work and in your life, you must stretch yourself and learn about people and cultures different than yours.

10. **Use your career center.** Your college career center can help you throughout your entire college career. Here is a sampling of what your career center can do to help you:
   - choose your major and career direction
   - explore career options
   - write a résumé and cover letter
   - develop your interviewing skills
   - identify your skills, interests, and values
   - connect you with prospective employers (career fairs, on-campus recruiting, etc.)

Remember, you control your career destiny. Don't wait until your last year in college to start realizing your goals. Your career train is on the move. Jump on board now so you can reach your destination.

Reference: jobweb.com (National Association for College & Employers)
Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.

– Confucius

CSC Mission Statement

The Career Services Center of Shelton State Community College is a center whose primary mission is to give all students and alumni the opportunity and guidance to explore and choose their career paths and to prepare them for the workforce through training and well developed job search skills.

CSC Vision Statement

Career Services strives to enhance career relationships between Shelton State Community College, the academic community, the business community, and the community at large through dedication to learning and a commitment to excellence.

Get Started On Your Career Path Today

Career Thoughts

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