

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES CAREER PLAN FIRST YEAR

ASSESS

- Identify your interests, values, skills, and personality preferences, and reflect on how those might relate to your NU experience and your future goals.
- Increase your awareness of suitable career options by meeting with a career counselor, and consider taking a career assessment.

EXPLORE

- Explore interests, values, and skills through diverse coursework, involvement in at least 1-2 student organizations, and experiential learning opportunities on and off-campus.
- Experiment with courses from different majors, minors, and certificates, and meet with a career counselor to discuss how to connect your coursework to future career opportunities.
- Research 2-3 potential careers/industries using NCA online resources such as Vault
- Learn about professional communication and informational interviewing by meeting with your career adviser, and then begin speaking with people you know in careers of interest (family, family friends, supervisors, NU faculty & staff).
- Explore additional career options using the LinkedIn alumni tool to review the profiles of NU alumni who studied your major and/or work in an industry of interest.
- Investigate the careers of alumni further by sending them professional messages to express your interest in learning more about their career paths.

DECIDE

- Learn about the career decision-making process (Assess, Explore, Decide, Act), and meet with your career adviser to create your individualized career plan for intentionally moving forward in the process.
- Identify and begin to decide on appropriate summer experiential learning opportunities (informational interviews, research, study abroad, internships, part-time jobs, volunteer work).

ACT

- Convert your high school resume into a professional document, and upload onto Handshake.
- Make an advising appointment with Director of Environmental Sciences to discuss declaring your major and study abroad options
- Establish your professional online presence by creating a LinkedIn profile; build your network by requesting to connect with personal contacts (family, friends, supervisors, classmates) and joining environmental sciences related groups.
- Attend NCA Internship & Job Fairs to familiarize yourself with this type of event, increase industry/employer knowledge, and make connections with employers.
- Apply to summer experiential learning opportunities with targeted resume and cover letters.