

Recommendations for preparing for a career as a junior

Similar to the advice given to freshmen and sophomores, much of what you will need to do to prepare for a career as a junior is exploring all of your options fully and being flexible and open about your possibilities. You will also need to still remember you are networking and trying to build up a reputation and online presence of someone others would want to hire.

In addition to the advice given to freshmen and sophomores, here are some unique pieces of advice for your junior year:

- If you have not already done so, visit the Career Center and fully explore the Psychology Department Advising website Preparing for a Career section to help you obtain a clear idea of what career you want to pursue.
- If you have a clear idea of the career you want to pursue; explore whether you would be able to get that job in the area you want to live or if you are willing to move to the area the job is in if necessary. Consider where you would ideally like to live.
 - Some jobs are much more flexible with location than others (i.e., it is easier to find some jobs regardless of where you live than others). For instance, if you want to work at a specific nonprofit, you will likely need to move to where that nonprofit is located. But if you want to work at any nonprofit in your ideal living location, you will likely be able to find a job (but it might not be your ideal fit).
 - It is also important to remember that some areas are much more competitive to obtain your desired job in than others. If you move to an area with 2 open positions in your desired field and 100 people who want those positions, this will obviously be more competitive than moving to an area with 2 open positions and 6 people who want those positions.
- Ideally you are at the point in your career at the University that you can focus on elective courses.
 - Take courses that will teach you relevant knowledge and/or help you obtain relevant experiences for the career you are pursuing or the careers you are considering.
 - Remember, if you have room in your schedule, you can take classes outside of the Psychology Department. For instance, if you want to become a Corrections or Truancy Officer, you could take one or more Criminal Justice classes. If you want to become a Child Protection Worker, you could take one or more Social Work classes.
- Continue to get to know your professors by going to their office hours, talking in class, or getting involved in their labs (if possible). If possible, prioritize getting to know professors who have the most knowledge of the career path you want to pursue. They will be able to give you unique advice and a strong recommendation from them will be viewed more highly than a strong recommendation from someone who does not really know what the job you are applying to involves. Remember you will need three people who can be references for most

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jobs, make sure you do not only get to know one professor. You want all three people to be able to provide you with a strong reference because they know you well.

- Continue being open to changes in your career ambitions and recognize that you will learn valuable information and skills even if you are pursuing a path you do not ultimately go down.
- If you have not already created the specific plan recommended in the advice for sophomores, do so. Then begin preparing your résumé to help ensure you are aware of the qualifications you have already obtained and the ones you still need to obtain.
- Continue to take advantage of all opportunities to gain relevant experiences and knowledge (within academics, extracurriculars, volunteer, and/or work experiences).
- Begin talking to people in your network about your desired career path and anticipated graduation date so that they can inform you if there are any open positions that you might be a good fit for that they know of.
- Go to networking and recruitment events and remember to use this as an opportunity to practice being professional.