

Getting Started

(804) 289-8547 | careerservices.richmond.edu

Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Drop-in Hours: M-F, 2 to 4 p.m.



Alumni & Career Services

CHOOSING A MAJOR AND CAREER PATH

There is no formulaic or “right way” to choose the major or career path that is best for you. As you engage in this journey, remember that it is your unique journey and that your active participation in decision-making and reflecting on the process will be key to your success.

EXPLORE MAJORS AND CAREERS

- Develop relationships with faculty and students in the department you are interested in and ask them questions to learn more about courses and majors.
- Check out www.onetonline.org to identify careers that align with your interests, values, and skills.
- Gain advice from professionals in your field of interest and explore industries and organizations by logging into the Vault resource through SpiderConnect

BUILD YOUR WEB OF SUPPORT

Growing your web of support will provide you with an opportunity to connect with a variety of people and perspectives as you make decisions related to your major and career path. Here are a few suggestions for individuals you might want to exist within your web:

- ✓ Academic advisor
- ✓ Career advisor
- ✓ UR faculty, staff, & students
- ✓ Alumni
- ✓ Neighbors, family friends, former bosses

To expand your web:

- ✓ Attend a Career Chat (sign up in SpiderConnect)
- ✓ Conduct an informational interview
- ✓ Visit a Career Expo or attend an employer info session to talk with employers
- ✓ Enroll in a Career Exploration or Life and Careers Wellness Course

TELL YOUR STORY

The following competency areas indicate that you are career ready and help you transition into the world of work. Consider how your academic and professional experiences are helping you to develop or enhance your skills in these areas. A career advisor can help you practice identifying and articulating these skills in a professional context.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| • Career & Self-Development | • Leadership |
| • Communication | • Professionalism |
| • Critical Thinking | • Teamwork |
| • Equity & Inclusion | • Technology |

Source: <https://www.naceweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined>

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GAIN EXPERIENCE

Experiences can provide you with great insight into the world of work and can help you clarify your interests in particular majors or career fields while also providing a space for you to develop and enhance your skills.

Career Services programs and resources

<https://careerservices.richmond.edu/students/programs-services/index.html>

- ✓ *Participate in Spider Shadowing*
Job shadowing is an impactful way to learn about an industry, career path, or specific organization through direct exposure to the people, day-to-day work, and culture of a job. Spider Shadowing is offered each winter and summer break and is open to all full-time undergraduate students.
- ✓ *Check out the Deconstructing Series*
Gain an inside look into a specific industry by talking with alumni, identifying career options, and learning about the skills needed to be successful in that field.
- ✓ *Attend a Spider Road Trip*
Visit employers in major metropolitan areas to learn first-hand about the different industries and potential job and internship opportunities within organizations.
- ✓ *Sign up for A&S NEXT*
A&S NEXT is a two-day professional development program to help A&S students understand their personal strengths, develop critical skills, and translate their Richmond education into a purposeful career. Open to A&S students of all majors and class years, including undeclared.
- ✓ *Research and apply to internships using SpiderConnect, UR's online database*
Meet with Career Services to review your resume and further discuss the internship process
- ✓ *Schedule a career advising meeting*
A career advisor can work with you one-on-one to explore opportunities and experiences that will help you define and achieve your personal and professional goals

Campus-wide Opportunities

- ✓ *Study abroad:* <https://international.richmond.edu>
- ✓ *Volunteer in the Richmond community:* <https://engage.richmond.edu>
- ✓ *Get a job on campus:* <https://studentjobs.richmond.edu>
- ✓ *Join a student organization:* <https://involved.richmond.edu>
- ✓ *Do research with a faculty member*