




CAREER  
DEVELOPMENT  
& ALUMNI  
ENGAGEMENT




C H A N N E L  
I S L A N D S

## First-Year Career Guide: Kickstart Your Career Development

Welcome to your college journey!  Starting your career development early gives you a serious edge. Follow the steps below to kick-start your career development and ensure you're career ready!

---


### Build Your Digital Presence

- ☐ **Set up Your Handshake Profile.** [Handshake](#) is your go-to platform for:
  - ☐ Apply for jobs & internships 
  - ☐ Register for [Career Center events](#) 
  - ☐ [Schedule career counseling appointments](#)
- ☐ **Create Your [LinkedIn](#) Profile**
- ☐ Build your professional identity 
  - ☐ Connect with alumni and professionals
  - ☐ Follow industries and companies
  - ☐ Upload a professional photo and write a strong "About Me"
  - ☐ Add your projects and coursework
  - ☐ Search for CSUCI Alumni ([LinkedIn Alumni Tool](#))

**\*\*[NACE Career Competencies](#):** Career & Self-Development, Communication, Technology, Professionalism, Equity & Inclusion

---

### Know Yourself

- ☐  **Take the [Focus 2](#)**
  - ☐ Explore your Interests, Values, Personality & Skills
  - Receive tailored major and career path recommendations.
  - ☐ Speak with a career counselor about your results and other career assessments available to you



#### **Reflect Regularly! Ask Yourself:**

- What classes do I enjoy most?
- Which activities make me feel excited or fulfilled?
- What kind of work feels meaningful to me?



This reflection helps guide your academic and career choices.

**\*\*[NACE Career Competencies](#):** Career & Self-Development, Critical Thinking, Technology

**Career Development & Alumni Engagement (CDAE)**

Bell Tower 1548 • 805-437-3270 • [career.services@csuci.edu](mailto:career.services@csuci.edu) • <https://www.csuci.edu/careerdevelopment/>

## Explore Majors & Career Paths

### ☐ Use [What Can I Do with This Major?](#)

- Discover career options based on your major and related professional associations.
- Connect academics to career goals

**\*\*[NACE Career Competencies](#): Career & Self-Development, Critical Thinking, Technology**

---

## Get Involved

- ☐ [Join student clubs](#)
- ☐ Attend campus events (including [Career & Internship Fair](#))
- ☐ Volunteer for causes you care about

**\*\*[NACE Career Competencies](#): Career & Self-Development, Teamwork, Leadership, Communication, Equity & Inclusion**

---

## Connect with Mentors and Career Professionals

### ☐ Schedule a [Career Counseling Appointment](#)

- Use [Handshake](#) to schedule an appointment with a Career Counselor
- Set short and long-term goals

**\*\*[NACE Career Competencies](#): Career & Self-Development, Communication, Critical Thinking, Technology**

### ☐ Conduct an Informational Interview and/or Job Shadow


- Learn about different roles
- Gain advice and inspiration
- Grow your network


 Tip: Find potential mentors through [LinkedIn Alumni Tool](#), faculty, and student clubs.


**\*\*[NACE Career Competencies](#): Career & Self-Development, Communication, Technology, Professionalism, Equity & Inclusion**

---

## Stay Connected

 **Check Email and [Handshake](#) Regularly:** Stay in the loop on events, deadlines, and opportunities

 **Visit the [Career Center Website](#)** for tools, videos, and upcoming workshops. Follow CDAE on social

 **Build Your Professional Network:** Connect with professors, advisors, and peers who support your goals

**\*\*[NACE Career Competencies](#): Communication, Career & Self-Development, Professionalism & Technology**

**Career Development & Alumni Engagement (CDAE)**

Bell Tower 1548 • 805-437-3270 • [career.services@csuci.edu](mailto:career.services@csuci.edu) • <https://www.csuci.edu/careerdevelopment/>