YOUR FOUR-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Center for Experience & Opportunity is your one-stop shop for experiential learning at McDaniel College. Experiential learning encompasses all of those things that you do outside of the classroom to deepen what you’re learning and to prepare you for what comes next. Whether you’re interested in internships, getting involved in the community, studying abroad, or competing for scholarships and fellowships, the CEO can help you chart your course in personal and professional development. Use this page as a guide to develop your own personalized action plan to meet your goals!

YEAR 1: EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES

☐ Get to know your professors. They will be valuable resources for you throughout the next four years.
☐ Attend your FYS classes hosted by the CEO to learn more about the office and to familiarize yourself with CEO Connect, our online database of experiential learning and job opportunities, and with Terra Dotta, our online database of study abroad programs.
☐ Schedule and attend your required appointment with a CEO Ambassador to think and talk more about your personal and professional goals.
☐ Meet with a study abroad peer advisor to talk about education abroad.
☐ Get involved in the community to learn about different social issues impacting Westminster and the surrounding area. Visit the CEO and ask about our community-based leadership programs!
☐ Visit the Office of Student Engagement (OSE) to explore how to get involved on campus through any number of student organizations.
☐ Explore the possibility of engaging in an international experience: studying abroad, volunteering, interning or completing post-graduate work abroad.
☐ Research the Duke of Edinburgh award and ask the CEO how to get started on your application for Bronze, Silver or Gold status.
☐ Make an appointment with the CEO to discuss how to align your interest in international travel, graduate school or professional school with competitive post-graduate fellowship opportunities.

YEAR 2: EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

☐ Look into opportunities for informational interviews or job shadowing with professionals in your areas of interest.
☐ Participate in the CEO’s IMMERSION program where you get the opportunity to visit organizations and businesses in Baltimore and Washington, DC.
☐ Collaborate with a faculty member on a student-faculty research project and present your findings at a regional or national conference.
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- Network at your academic department’s Alumni Networking Event and meet alumni to learn about their career paths.
- Create a LinkedIn profile to start building your personal professional network.
- Attend our Fall and Spring Internship Fairs to meet employers face-to-face and learn about internship opportunities.
- Consider the CEO’s Jan term classes “Apply Yourself” or “Land That Internship” if you are interested in fellowships, scholarships, or internships.
- Work with the CEO to get connected with a local community partner to develop an ongoing volunteer relationship to give back to the community.
- Make an appointment with a CEO Ambassador to explore internship opportunities on CEO Connect.

YEAR 3: CHART YOUR COURSE

- Apply for the Griswold-Zepp award to receive funds toward a service project that you design to make a tangible impact on the local or global community.
- Make an appointment with a staff member to talk about your action plan for internships, graduate school or community engagement.
- Set up an informational interview with at least one alum or professional to learn more about career opportunities in your areas of interest.
- Register for the CEO’s “Land That Internship” Jan Term course to learn how to find, apply to and land an internship for the summer.
- Participate in the Alumni Networking Event for your academic department or other networking events to hone your networking skills.
- Keep in touch with the CEO to let us know about your internship and service experiences.

YEAR 4: APPLY YOURSELF

- Update your profile in CEO Connect and be sure to check it regularly for new opportunities throughout the year.
- Ask professors to review your applications for graduate or professional school or to help you build your professional network.
- Begin applying to potential employers as early as late fall for May graduation, then attend Job Search Bootcamp to get some guidance in the job search process.
- Continue attending CEO events such as Internship and Job Fairs, Graduate School Fair, IMMERSION and Alumni Networking Events.
- Participate in the Senior Networking Hour to meet alumni and perfect your networking skills.
- Stay informed about upcoming career fairs in the region to meet employers who are specifically looking for recent grads.
- Schedule at least one mock interview with a staff member or visiting employer to fine-tune your interviewing skills.
- Complete your Senior Exit Survey and Interview to let us know what great plans you have after graduation and to get advice for what’s next.
- Celebrate your successes at McDaniel and share your career and post-graduate plans with the CEO to inspire your peers!