

IDEAS FOR WRITING CAREER SECTIONS OF MAJOR MAPS

The Major Maps you are creating will serve as a general guide to help students and their advisors plan a holistic future, which includes identifying the kinds of coursework, connections, and experiences necessary to transform plans into reality. Students are also encouraged to develop customized Major Maps to fit their individual goals and interests.

Another benefit of Major Maps is that students will hear consistent themes in messaging from faculty and staff on how they can structure their education at NDSU. This will maximize the success of students through graduation and beyond.

When writing Major Maps, it may be easiest to start with the end in mind, or target: (1) What is your plan for the future? This first question leads to additional questions: (2) Who to connect with, (3) what coursework should be pursued, (4) what work experiences may be necessary, and (4) how to broaden perspectives? Major Maps are not meant to be overly prescriptive but to provide a general framework of how students can get the most from their NDSU education.

The following tables, while not exhaustive, provide a full spectrum of options to consider when writing your Major Maps:

<u>1ST YEAR</u>	<u>2ND YEAR</u>	<u>3RD YEAR</u>	<u>FINAL YEAR</u>
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BUILD YOUR FUTURE

Summary: Know yourself, viable career options, required education & experience, tools for access. Make a plan and execute it.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Get to know yourself —your personality, skills, likes & dislikes —by taking career assessments and trying new things. ○ Research careers aligned with your interests, skills and goals. Identify requisites of various careers through web searches and conversations. ○ Attend orientation sessions, workshops, and career-related events to learn what's out there. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue researching the requirements and duties of working in careers of interest. ○ Visit Career Center to prepare for success in career exploration, position searches, internships, applications, interviewing, career fairs, and more. ○ Visit ARC to prepare for success in academic exploration, choosing a major, course mapping, graduation considerations, and more. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Narrow the focus of your targeted career area. ○ Prepare to take a graduate school exam, if applicable. ○ Seek assistance to maximize success of your position search, resumes, letters, interviews, grad school applications as relevant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Solidify post-graduation plan and apply for jobs or continuing education. ○ Apply for scholarships if pursuing grad school. ○ Develop a list of professional references who know you well and can speak positively and concretely of your work performance.
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SEEK OUT CONNECTIONS

Summary: Build relationships with people working in targeted fields—through conversations, attending events, and participating in groups.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build relationships with faculty and staff with whom you can seek advice. ○ Attend clubs & organizations fair—and consider joining one. See Clubs Directory for descriptions. ○ Create a LinkedIn profile and build 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Join a student chapter of a professional association in your field. ○ Attend career fairs and expos to connect with employers and learn about different careers. ○ Develop a 10-15 second elevator pitch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attend a regional or national conference affiliated with a professional association. ○ Arrange conversations with alumni working in fields of interest; join related LinkedIn groups. ○ Attend career fairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Become an involved member of a professional association. ○ Ask for referrals from people working in fields of interest to gain access to people in organizations you wish to pursue. ○ Attend fairs, and interview with
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1ST YEAR	2ND YEAR	3RD YEAR	FINAL YEAR
connections.	describing who you are when you meet someone.	and expos, and participate in on-campus interviews.	organizations you want to work for upon graduation.

DEVELOP SKILLS, EXPERIENCE

Summary: Gain necessary transferrable skills by working in progressively responsible roles.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider a job or volunteer opportunity in an area of interest. <p>Learn the practice of writing effective resumes, letters, and interviewing—to gain access to good opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work in a department or organization related to your field. ○ Work a substantive summer job or internship in your field to build out your resume. ○ Take on more responsibility within the realms you're involved in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pursue 3-12-month co-op or substantive internship in an organization you may want to work in after graduation. ○ Consider pursuing a leadership position in one of your clubs or organizations. ○ If interested in an academic career, work as a faculty assistant or apply for a student research opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fill deficiency gaps related to skills or experience by volunteering, taking on club leadership, or pursuing more jobs or internships. ○ Consider trying out an entrepreneurial endeavor, or participate in a project of interest.
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BROADEN PERSPECTIVES

Summary: Broaden cognitive, affective, and behavioral practices through engaging with different belief systems, values, languages, cultures, and geographies.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explore options for studying abroad through the Study Abroad Office. <p>Consider what language(s) you might want to study as a foreign language elective.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Apply in January for a study abroad program or a work abroad program during your 3rd year. ○ Consider taking a language course related to an upcoming abroad program—or related to a country/culture of interest. ○ Consider local options for engaging with another culture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Go abroad if you have been accepted into a program. ○ Continue your language study. <p>Engage with another culture within the local community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ International students interested in staying in the US must speak with an International Student Advisor about OPT, CPT, H-1B, and associated deadlines. ○ Prepare for work or studies in a foreign country by researching options and visa regulations. ○ Pursue opportunities that fit your goals.

WHERE COULD I GO AFTER GRADUATION?

Potential data sources to help you populate the career fields column on the far-right side of your Major Map:

LinkedIn Career Insights for NDSU Alumni: <https://www.linkedin.com/school/9201/alumni/>

Description: Filterable website containing NDSU alumni employment profiles, including what they do and where they work.

Job Titles by Major: <https://career.ndsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2016/12/Job-Titles-by-Major-1.pdf>

Description: 20-page document of job titles taken from First Destination Surveys completed by NDSU students, 0-6 months out.

What Can I Do with This Major? <https://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/>

Description: A website describing careers and types of employers that hire people within each major.

O*NET OnLine Career Clusters: <https://www.onetonline.org/find/career>

Description: A website describing occupations in a given field of work that require similar skills.

BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Description: A website describing career information, including education requirements for occupations.