

# 10 STRATEGIES FOR FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE STUDENT SUCCESS

## 1. Keep Grades Up

Employers and graduate schools want candidates with good grades. That will probably never change. Doing well academically proves that you have a good knowledge base and a strong work ethic, a value that employers seek.

## 2. Identify Interests, Skills, Values & Personal Traits

Visit Career Planning and Development to take advantage of self-assessment instruments and career counseling.

## 3. Actively Explore Career Options

- **Conduct Informational Interviews:** Talk with professionals in occupations of interest.
- **Job Shadow:** Observe professionals on the job.
- **Network:** Talk with alumni, attend career fairs and attend information sessions.
- **Research:** Read about majors/careers of interest.

## 4. Get Involved

Active involvement in campus clubs and activities is highly valued by employers and graduate schools. Don't just join a club—become a leader, hold an office or coordinate an event to develop leadership and teamwork skills. Explore the Student Organizations page: [www.utm.edu/studentorgs](http://www.utm.edu/studentorgs)

## 5. Get Involved in Community Service

You live in a larger community than your college or hometown. Demonstrate your understanding of that by giving back to your community.

## 6. Develop Computer Skills

Show you can type a business letter, use spreadsheets, design data bases and produce presentations. Take a basic computer course. Make sure your online presence demonstrates sound grammatical and spelling skills.

## 7. Develop Writing Skills

Over and over, company and graduate school recruiters complain about the lack of writing skills among college graduates. Don't avoid classes that are writing intensive. Work at developing your writing skills. Take advantage of the UT Martin Writing Center for feedback on your papers. The cover letter or personal statement is often the first impression you make. Have a career counselor review yours.

## 8. Complete an Internship in Chosen Career Field

Internships are often a springboard to employment and getting into graduate programs. Many recruiters say that when they need to fill entry-level jobs, they will only hire previous interns. Not only can an internship make you more marketable, it is also a great way to explore and determine if certain careers are for you. When you work for a company as an intern for three to four months, you gain a better understanding of whether the field (and company) is one in which you want to work day in and day out. Internships are posted on Handshake.

## 9. Diversity with Study Abroad or Travel Study

The American work force is becoming more diverse. So, to be successful at work and in your life, stretch yourself and learn about people and cultures different than yours. Most people find it harder to take time to travel as they begin their careers and start families. Explore Study Abroad and Travel Study opportunities here: [www.utm.edu/cie](http://www.utm.edu/cie)

## 10. Use Career Planning & Development

We can help you throughout your ENTIRE college career. Here is just a sampling of how Career Planning and Development can help:

- Choose and explore major, minor and career options
- Obtain an internship or part-time job
- Write a resume and cover letter
- Develop interviewing skills
- Identify skills, interests, and values
- Develop a job search or graduate school plan
- Connect with prospective employers (career fairs, on-campus recruiting, etc.)

Don't wait until your senior year to start developing and realizing your personal and professional goals. Let a career counselor help you today!

Resource: [jobweb.com/parents.aspx?id=50](http://jobweb.com/parents.aspx?id=50)

