Philosophy Department
Four Year plan, Classroom to Career

1A. Freshman Year, Philosophy Department

☐ Academic Advising
Use your academic adviser and the peer advising program to explore Philosophy and other potential majors, minors, programs and courses, given your interest.

☐ Come to the Café
The Department hosts Socrates Cafe, a bi-weekly gathering of students and faculty who discuss philosophy. Talk to department chair for details.

☐ Lecture Series
Come and engage experts in our field as they deliver lectures. Take part in occasional seminars for the development of its faculty. Talk to department chair for details. We also encourage you to attend lectures and events at other major universities, which are readily accessible because of Fairfield's proximity to New York City and New Haven.

☐ Dream Job
What is your "dream job" after graduation? What are you passionate about? Talk to your faculty adviser and other mentors. As a Philosophy major, how can you use your time at Fairfield to prepare for it through class work, internships, volunteer activities, summer jobs, leadership positions with clubs and organizations, and other relevant out of class experiences.

Philosophy majors are not limited in their choice of postgraduate careers. Their studies prepare them to be analytical, reflective, and understanding of the fundamental values in any enterprise. The career paths of recent graduates indicate this versatility. Recent philosophy majors have gone into law, medicine, social work, teaching, investment banking, and even a few have gone on to graduate school in philosophy. Those seeking further education have been admitted to graduate and professional programs at Ohio State, Columbia, Pittsburgh, Southern Illinois, and Utah, Harvard Medical School, and the law schools at Boston College, Boston University, Cardozo, UConn, Fordham, Rutgers, and St. John's.

1B. Freshman Year, University wide

☐ Hear From The Experts
Attend lectures on campus and hear from professionals and experts in your field of interest. Start with the Open VISIONS Forum and look for other events listed in the university calendar. In choosing FYE events to attend, include those most related to career interests.

☐ Seek Out As Many Experiences As Possible
Not sure of a career path? Use extracurricular activities to help you expand, or narrow, your choices.

☐ The Core: Start Exploring
Talk to your faculty adviser about how to choose core courses that will encourage you to explore new areas and supplement your areas of interest and career goals.
Showcase Your Material
Start collecting materials you put in a portfolio to market yourself and help show your experience. Create a blog or e-portfolio to both present the work (newspaper stories, poetry, well-crafted essays, videos) and to offer reflections on them. Contact CAS Associate Dean Aaron Perkus for help in creating an e-portfolio.

Discover your passion!
Take chances on different classes and majors. Find faculty members who can guide your journey here. Get plugged in and, along the way, discover what you are passionate about.

Summer Jobs
Work with your faculty adviser to discuss options for a summer job that could give you experience and add content to your resume.

Campus Clubs and Student Organizations
Invest your time in activities that give you experience in your field of interest and put you in touch with students who might have similar career interests.

Study Abroad

Work, Work, Work
Look for a relevant job on or off campus to gain work experience. Consider volunteer opportunities, often tied to your academic interest, to give you experience and provide information on potential careers, especially with non-profit organizations. Looks for summer internships and jobs so you can apply classroom lessons to the professional world.

Living and Learning
Make plans for sophomore year to team up and network with other students who share your career interests.

Lead On
Look for chances to begin building your leadership skills. Take advantage of New Student Programs that bridge the classroom with the residence halls. Network with students in your residence hall who are enrolled in the same Cornerstone classes and participate in the First Year Experience (FYE) program. This will help you to make friends who share your passions and interests.

Preparing for graduate school, early
A large percentage of Fairfield students further their academic careers after four years at Fairfield. Fairfield’s pre-law program has a full-four year agenda of recommended activities. For freshman year, interested students should concentrate on attaining high grades in your University Core classes; develop good study habits; attend St. Robert Bellarmine Society Events; and follow the Pre-Law website for events and tips on applying to law school. Talk to your academic adviser about preparing for graduate school options.

Ask A Librarian
The DiMenna-Nyselius Library has resources to help you to discover, begin and manage your career. If you would like assistance in using any of these resources, contact a librarian.
Start Career Planning. Now

Make an appointment with the Career Planning Center (CPC) to meet with staff, talk about your goals and aspirations, and how to best utilize your next four years of college. Read about jobs in which you might be interested. Attend Career Fairs and ask employers what they are looking for in new hires. Look at the CPC's online Career Planning Advisor Videos and Research Tools.
2A. Sophomore Year, Philosophy Department

- **Faculty advising**
  Use your faculty adviser and peer advising to choose the best courses, given your interest. Be prepared for your annual meetings.

- **The Return of Socrates**
  The Department hosts Socrates Cafe, a bi-weekly gathering of students and faculty who discuss philosophy. Talk to department chair for details.

- **Engage Your Mind**
  Come and engage experts in our field as they deliver lectures. Take part in occasional seminars for the development of its faculty. Talk to department chair for details. We also encourage you to attend lectures and events at other major universities, which are readily accessible because of Fairfield's proximity to New York City and New Haven.

- **Internships**
  Talk to your faculty adviser and start planning now for potential internships as an upperclassman. Think about "trying out" a career, gaining work experience, marketable skills, potential mentors and a competitive edge. Look for potential matches between an internship with your career. Philosophy majors have access to a developing range of internships with public and private agencies available to all Fairfield students in good academic standing. Recently, a student was placed with the Institutional Review Board of Bridgeport Hospital, which provided the basis for the study of the protection of human subjects in biomedical research.

- **Keep Dreaming**
  What happens after Fairfield? What would be your "dream job" – and how do you get there?

- **Honors Program**
  Qualified Philosophy students participate in the Honors Program at Fairfield University and, for students with an exceptional academic record of achievement, the opportunity to be elected to the country's premier honor society, Phi Beta Kappa.

- **Phi Sigma Tau**
  Qualified Philosophy students may join Phi Sigma Tau. Phi Sigma Tau is the International Philosophy Honor Society. Its main goals are to honor academic excellence and to promote philosophical activity within the university community. Talk to the department chair for details.

- **Line Up References**
  Start to look for 3+ professors in Philosophy and elsewhere who might serve as professional references for you. Discuss your future plans with them and ask for guidance. Stay in touch with them so they can speak about your successes in an informed way.

2B. Sophomore Year, University wide

- **Hear From The Best**
  Look for lectures on campus when professionals in your field come to speak and often meet with students
Want to get a jumpstart on your future? Sophomore Success is a series of casual dinners developed to help you figure out such questions as: Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter – do they really matter? Will my posts impact my future? How do I write a resume? How can I make myself stand out in the job market? Should I study abroad? How do I get an internship? What about grad school? Should I do service? Have I really given enough thought to my major based on my career goals? Networking Skills? Business etiquette - what the heck is that? Students meet over dinner with Career Planning staffers and discuss topics. Look for sign-up information early in the year.

Yes, employers look at GPA
Keep your eye on the goal of academic excellence.

Leadership Skills
Consider a leadership role with a student club or organization to help give you leadership and management experience.

Service Learning Courses
Look for Fairfield courses that give you a chance to interact with the off-campus community, gain experience, and maybe pick up a resume credit.

The Study Abroad Fair
The Study Abroad Fair will give you tips to use in finalizing any travel plans for junior year. Talk to faculty and other students on how the experience could help further your career goals.

Build A Portfolio
Consider creating a blog or e-portfolio to collect materials that you can use to promote yourself in the future. Build a blog.

Relevant Summer Job
Talk to faculty and Career Planning to increase your chances of securing a summertime job (after sophomore year) that is related to your career goal, can give you some experience, and serve as a credit on your resume. Use Facebook and LinkedIn to present yourself to the world in a professional manner.

Career Planning
Don't wait! Make another appointment with a Career Planning Center counselor. Consider taking a "self-assessment inventory" test to help you get a better handle on where your strengths might be directing you. Update your resume. Look for workshops that can sharpen skills in writing resumes, networking, and mock interviewing. Register with Experience, Fairfield's online recruiting system, and get familiar with how it works. Students can search for jobs, internships, information on career fairs, and submit resumes to jobs and internships of interest.

More Career Planning
Attend Career Fairs and ask employers what they are looking for in new hires. Make an appointment with the Career Planning Center to meet with staff and talk about your goals and aspirations. Look at their online Career Planning Advisor Videos. Look at the Research Tools for Careers.
3A. Junior Year, Philosophy Department

☐ **Options After Fairfield**
How can you best use your remaining courses and free electives to both round out your education and prepare for a career? How about graduate work? Philosophy majors are not limited in their choice of postgraduate careers. Their studies prepare them to be analytical, reflective, and understanding of the fundamental values in any enterprise. The career paths of recent graduates indicate this versatility. Recent philosophy majors have gone into law, medicine, social work, teaching, and investment banking. Those seeking further education have been admitted to graduate and professional programs at Ohio State and Columbia universities, Harvard Medical School, and the law schools at Boston College, Boston University, Fordham, and St. John's.

☐ **Socrates Café**
Take a leadership role during the department’s Socrates Cafe, a bi-weekly gathering of students and faculty who discuss philosophy. Talk to department chair for details.

☐ **Hear From The Experts**
Come and engage experts in our field as they deliver lectures. Take part in occasional seminars for the development of its faculty. Talk to department chair for details. We also encourage you to attend lectures and events at other major universities, which are readily accessible because of Fairfield's proximity to New York City and New Haven.

☐ **Research Projects**
Talk to favorite professors about possible supervised research projects you might do in your area of interest, in the summer or during the school year. On-campus summer housing may be available.

☐ **Come and hear from the experts**
Open Visions Forum features relevant speakers every year. Come hear from national and international experts – for free.

☐ **Independent Studies**
Interested in a research area but there is no course offered in the catalog? Talk to a faculty member or department chair about a possible independent study.

☐ **Phi Sigma Tau**
Take a leadership role in Phi Sigma Tau the International Philosophy Honor Society. Work on developing a paper for publication in *Dialogue*, the student Journal of Phi Sigma Tau. Talk to the department chair for details.

☐ **CAS Awards**
Philosophy has department awards for outstanding students every spring; they are honored at the College of Arts and Sciences award night in April. We recognize the highest scholastic average in philosophy attained by a philosophy major through the Carl J. Levantino Award for excellence in the study of philosophy. Attend the event and look for projects that might earn you this honor. With your faculty adviser, gain experience in entering such a competition and learn how to effectively package and present your work-and yourself. Non-seniors are often singled out for their great work.
Philosophy Internships
Philosophy majors have access to a developing range of internships with public and private agencies available to all Fairfield students in good academic standing. Think about "trying out" a career, gaining work experience, marketable skills, potential mentors and a competitive edge. Look for potential matches between an internship with your career. Remember that summer jobs, not for credit, can be just as useful in gaining experience and building a resume.

References
Look for three professors, in and out of the department, who can speak about your successes in an informed way.
4A. Senior Year, Philosophy Department

☐ **Come to the Café**
The Department hosts Socrates Cafe, a bi-weekly gathering of students and faculty who discuss philosophy. Talk to department chair for details.

☐ **Lecture Series**
Come and engage experts in our field as they deliver lectures. Take part in occasional seminars for the development of its faculty. Talk to department chair for details. We also encourage you to attend lectures and events at other major universities, which are readily accessible because of Fairfield's proximity to New York City and New Haven.

☐ **Phi Sigma Tau**
Take a leadership role in Phi Sigma Tau the International Philosophy Honor Society. Work on developing a paper for publication in *Dialogue*, the student Journal of Phi Sigma Tau. Talk to the department chair for details.

☐ **Research**
Start to narrow your interests and look for ways to use classwork, internships, summer work and potential independent studies to further your interest.

☐ **Service Learning Associates**
Housed in the Office of Service Learning, the Service Learning Associates (SLA) program engages 8 to 10 undergraduates each semester as student leaders to their peers in service-learning courses. Each Associate works intensively with one professor to support a service-learning course which aligns with the Associate's academic background and interests. The Associates meet regularly with both faculty and fellow Associates throughout the semester and attend professional development trainings facilitated by the Office of Service Learning. Contact Danielle Corea, Program Coordinator.

☐ **Final Internship**
Use your final internship(s) to try out careers, sharpen your resume and cover letter, develop a portfolio, make contacts, and take classroom skills and apply to real world. Positions are available at the local, state and national government levels, plus with nonprofit organizations. Philosophy majors have access to a developing range of internships with public and private agencies available to all Fairfield students in good academic standing. Recently, a student was placed with the Institutional Review Board of Bridgeport Hospital, which provided the basis for the study of the protection of human subjects in biomedical research.

☐ **Line Up References**
Finalize 3+ professors from Philosophy and elsewhere who might serve as professional references for you. Discuss your future plans with them and ask for guidance.

4B. Senior Year, University wide

☐ **Final Work With Career Planning**
Fine-tune your resume by adding summer jobs and senior classes. Hone your interviewing techniques. Read the Experience calendar daily. Network with alumni through the Fairfield Alumni Network (FAN). Attend the fall and spring Career Fairs. Update your resume on Experience. Apply for specific jobs by uploading your resume to that job description. Participate in real interviews. Look at the employment information and online job board.
Learn While Doing
Look for learning opportunities where you also gain useful experience. They might include internships, Service Learning courses, volunteer positions, and campus leadership roles. Become a leader of a campus organization or club and gain management experience.

Preparing for law school and graduate programs
About half of CAS students further their academic careers after four years at Fairfield. Fairfield’s pre-law program has a full-four year agenda of recommended activities. For senior year, the program encourages interested students, in the summer before senior year, to narrow the list of law schools in which you are interested. Work on your personal statement and application. Line up your letters of recommendation from faculty members and others. Have your application and supporting materials ready by late summer of your Senior year and apply as early as possible. If you were unable to take the LSAT in June of your junior year, plan to take the October exam in the fall of your Senior year. Apply as soon as possible after getting your scores. Attend St. Robert Bellarmine Pre-Law Society Events. Let the Pre-Law Advisor know of your progress in getting accepted. Other students will be anxious to learn from your experience!

Research
Look for opportunities to publicly present your research at academic conferences or on-campus poster sessions.

Capstone? Internship?
How can you most effectively tie together what you have learned? Your final courses allow you to reflect upon how you have grown at Fairfield and where your path will lead you next.

Role Models
Look for lectures on campus when professionals in your field come to speak and often meet students. Start with the Open Visions Forum.

Technical Skills
Attend workshops (sponsored by RCADE and others) to strengthen technical and computer skills. How can you use your remaining courses to gain additional skills needed for your dream job?

Non-Profit Sector
Look for a relevant job on campus to gain work experience. Consider volunteer opportunities, often tied to your academic interest, to give your experience and provide information on potential careers, especially with non-profit organizations.

Library Help
The DiMenna-Nyselius Library has a large array of resources to help you to discover, begin and manage your career: If you would like assistance in using any of these resources, please contact a librarian.

Final Work With Career Planning
Fine-tune your resume by adding summer jobs and senior classes. Hone your interviewing techniques. Read the Experience calendar daily. Network with alumni through the Fairfield Alumni Network (FAN). Attend the fall and spring Career Fairs. Update your resume on Experience. Apply for specific jobs by uploading your resume to that job description. Participate in real interviews. Look at the employment information and online job board.
View Your Contacts As A Network
Do you have faculty references lined up? How about classmates who can help inform you about jobs they hear about. Network!