Visual and Performing Arts Department
Four-Year plan, Classroom to Career

1A. Freshman Year, Visual and Performing Arts Department

- **Academic Advising**
  Use your [academic adviser](#) and the [peer advising program](#) to explore VPA and other potential majors, minors, programs and courses, given your interest. What core courses fit best with your career goals?

- **Start Dreaming! Attend “Get a Gig” Meetings**
  What is your *dream job* after graduation? What are you passionate about? Talk to your faculty adviser and other mentors: How can you use your remaining 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. Make an appointment with the Career Planning Center (CPC) to meet with staff, talk about your goals and aspirations and how to best utilize the next four years. Read about jobs in which you might be interested.

- **Attend “Life After Fairfield” Alumni Panels**
  Attend a night of discussions with Fairfield Alumni who have graduated from the Department of Visual and Performing Arts. Students will have the opportunity to discuss how graduates are using their arts knowledge in their chosen professions as well as ask alumni what they wish they had done in their undergraduate careers to better prepare them for the outside world. This provides great networking opportunities for students as well as valuable insight into future career opportunities. Talk to department chair for details.

- **Join VPA Extracurricular Activities**
  Join some of the many arts focused extracurricular activities at the University. Collaborate with other arts students both inside and outside of your discipline to brainstorm and create exciting new artistic works and projects.
  
  - [Theatre Fairfield](#)
  - University Symphony Orchestra
  - Gospel Choir
  - The Sounds: A Cappella Group
  - The Bensonians: A Cappella Group
  - [Ham Channel](#)
  - Jazz Rock and Blues Ensemble
  - Your Mother Does Improv : A student run improv troupe
  - [Glee Club](#)
  - Pep Band
  - Private instrumental and voice lessons

- **Summer Jobs**
  Work with faculty adviser to discuss options for a relevant summer job that could give you experience and add a credit to your resume.
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 Visual and Performing Arts and career interests.

Study Abroad
Why do 30 percent or more of Fairfield students spend a semester or a year studying abroad? Start to explore the program now; how might it give you experience to aid your undergraduate studies and your potential career? What core courses should you save to take abroad?

Work, Work, Work
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.

Living and Learning
Look for a chance sophomore year to team up and network with other students who may share your perspective on the world and career interests.

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

Ask A Librarian
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.

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. Look 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-Nyseulius 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, Visual and Performing Arts Department

☐ More Advising
Use your Visual and Performing Arts faculty adviser and peer advising to choose the best courses, given your interest. Be prepared for your meeting.

☐ Participate in Visual and Performing Arts Extracurricular Activities
Continue participating in the many arts focused extracurricular activities at the University. Collaborate with other arts students both inside and outside of your discipline to brainstorm and create exciting new artistic works and projects. Start thinking about potential leadership opportunities within the activities that you participate in.

- Theatre Fairfield
- University Symphony Orchestra
- Gospel Choir
- The Sounds: A Cappella Group
- The Bensonians: A Cappella Group
- Ham Channel
- Jazz Rock and Blues Ensemble
- Your Mother Does Improv : A student run improv troupe
- Glee Club
- Pep Band
- Private instrumental and voice lessons-

☐ Keep Dreaming! Attend “Get a Gig” Meetings
What is your "dream job" after graduation? What are you passionate about? Talk to professionals in your field, your faculty adviser and other mentors: How can you use your remaining 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. Learn how to prepare for job-hunting, interviews and networking events. Talk to the department chair.

Here is an overview of life after Fairfield for many of our majors:

➤ Art History
Fairfield University art history majors have gone on to become gallery managers, museum curators, events planners for auction houses, writers for arts journals, and more. In addition, art history majors have entered related fields such as Interior design, architecture, and art collection assessment for banks and insurance companies. Those seeking advanced degrees have gone to graduate schools including New York University, Rutgers, Yale, and the University of Texas at Austin.

➤ Music
Music major graduates today have a great variety of professional fields open to them, such as Music Education: Elementary, Secondary, and Post-Secondary; Studio/Individual Teaching; Music Therapist; Performance/Professional Musician; Church/Temple, as Music Director; Composer (Arranger/Orchestrator/Copyist) and Conductor; Music Librarian; Publisher / Editor; Arts Administrator; Promotions and Marketing; Music Software; Programmer; Manager / Booking Agent; Music Dealer: Management / Sales; Newspaper Critic / Reporter; Tuner,
Technician, Instrument Repair; Copyright / Clearance Administrator; Music License Administrator; Music Editor, Producer, Composer; Sound Mixer; Post-Production Scoring; Disc Jockey / Video Jockey; Program Director – Radio; and Music Researcher.

- **New Media / Film / Television / Radio**
  Many graduates continue to develop their interests and perfect their skill through graduate studies, and have gone on to film school programs at New York University, Columbia, and the University of Southern California. The major in New Media Film, Television and Radio provides a great introduction to the professional world of these media. Our graduates are working in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and other media centers around the nation. Such as Late Night with David Letterman, FOX News, MSNBC, MTV, Jon Stewart Show, Comedy Central, New Line Cinema, Twentieth Century Fox, and Paramount Pictures.

- **Studio Art**
  Students graduate from Fairfield with a broad liberal education, no matter what their major, and are prepared for any number of career entries. Studio art majors of recent years have become professional artists and atelier printers. Graduates have taken positions in galleries, museums, arts administration, and publishing. Several studio art major graduates have pursued further study in places such as the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts, Columbia, Rutgers, New York University, and Burren College of Art in Ireland.

- **Theatre**
  Due to the interdisciplinary nature of this program, undergraduate education in theatre is excellent preparation for a career in Public Relations, Communications, Advertising, Writing, Publishing, Marketing, Education, Public service, Law, Theatre industry. Theatre Fairfield Alumni have gone on to work with companies such as Riverdance on Broadway, Harold Prince Productions, Denver Theatre Center, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Manhattan Theatre Club, Long Wharf Theatre, Actors Equity Association, Westport Country Playhouse, and Fox Television.

**Continue Exploring Study Abroad Options**
Many Visual and Performing Arts majors choose to enrich their experience further by spending a semester or year abroad. Students spend a semester, a year, a month, or just ten days abroad earning academic credit and gaining the kind of knowledge only an onsite experience can provide. Fairfield University offers students from other college and universities semester, year, and short-term study abroad opportunities in Florence, Italy; Managua, Nicaragua; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Aix-en-Provence, France; Brisbane, Australia; and Galway, Ireland. Talk to your advisor about what location will offer you the best experience in your chosen field.

**Find an Internship**
Brainstorm with your advisor about potential Internships for the summer and future semesters. Take advantage of the many on-campus professionally run art galleries, museums, theatres, television channels and music venues. Explore off campus opportunities by working with your advisor and making connections to alumni and working professionals in your field of interest. 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.
Line Up References
Look for 3+ professors in Visual and Performing Arts 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.

Attend “Life After Fairfield” Alumni Panels
Attend a night of discussions with Fairfield Alumni who have graduated from the Department of Visual and Performing Arts. Students will have the opportunity to discuss how graduates are using their arts knowledge in their chosen professions as well as ask alumni what they wish they had done in their undergraduate careers to better prepare them for the outside world. This provides great networking opportunities for students as well as valuable insight into future career opportunities.

Major/Minor Night
After attending Visual and Performing Arts Major/Minor Nights, talk to professors and students about how to get the most out of the major or how to combine majors and minors to create a specialized program catered to your interests and career goals.

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.

Career Readiness
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, Visual and Performing Arts Department

☐ More Advising
Use your Visual and Performing Arts faculty adviser and peer advising to choose the best courses, internships and potential graduate schools. Be prepared for your meeting.

☐ Take a Leadership Role in Visual and Performing Arts Extracurricular Activities
Take a leadership role in one or more of the many arts focused extracurricular activities at the University. Mentor and recruit underclassmen; collaborate with other arts students both inside and outside of your discipline to brainstorm and create exciting new artistic works and projects. Start thinking about potential leadership opportunities within the activities that you participate in.

- Theatre Fairfield
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- Your Mother Does Improv: A student run improv troupe
- Glee Club
- Pep Band
- Private instrumental and voice lessons

☐ Find an Internship
Brainstorm with your advisor about potential internships for the summer and future semesters. Take advantage of the many on-campus professionally run art galleries, museums, theatres, television channels and music venues. Explore off campus opportunities by working with your advisor and making connections to people in your field of interest. 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.

Here is an overview:

**Art History**
Interns play critical roles in the day-to-day operations of the museums and galleries for which they work. From performing essential administrative duties to undertaking specialized projects, interns contribute in real and meaningful ways to the smooth operation of the arts organizations to which they lend their time and talents.

Internships are beneficial for both the student and the institutions that engage them. Specifically, while a museum or gallery benefits from the completion of specialized projects as well as the fresh insights and new collegial relationships its interns help forge, interns themselves can expect to gain meaningful, hands-on experience. This, in turn, leaves students better prepared to evaluate their career options after graduation and enhances their standing in an increasingly competitive job market.
In recent years, for example, art history majors and minors have held internships at The Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Connecticut UBS Corporate Art Collection in New York City, Paul Kasmin Gallery in New York City, and the Fairfield Arts Council in Fairfield, Connecticut. On campus, internships are available at the Bellarmine Museum of Art and the Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery to students majoring or minoring in Art History.

**Music**
See director for details

**New Media / Film / Television / Radio**
Students in the major or minor program are encouraged to seek out internship opportunities in the area of their concentration of film, television or radio. Internships are available from many production companies, as well as television and radio stations. Our faculty have many contacts with practitioners in these media and often help qualified students arrange internships for credit. Fairfield's proximity to New York City (just an hour away) makes dynamic options a real possibility. In recent years, for example, our students have held internships at NBC, ABC, ESPN, The Daily Show, MSG, Speedvision Network, Outdoor Life, CNN, Comedy Central, The Conan O'Brien Show, WFAN, ESPN, WEBE 108, National Geographic Film and Television, and numerous independent film production companies.

**Studio Art**
Studio Internships are for students who have completed at least 3 studio courses and whose academic work has prepared them for professional work related to the major. An Internship allows you to gain hands-on experience in fields related to Studio Art through supervised work for artists, in galleries or museums. Internships require faculty supervision and are developed by each student in consultation with the supervising professor. You'll set up a time to meet with the supervising professor and can either have a specific venue already selected or ask the supervising professor for assistance in finding a studio, gallery, museum, or artist to contact. Internships must be finalized with the studio program director by the midpoint of the preceding semester. Internship possibilities include working with an artist, assisting in a contemporary gallery or museum, assisting in a printmaking atelier, finding a work site specifically suited to your interest and talents, assisting in the installation and de-installation of art works at the Thomas J. Walsh Art Gallery on campus, the design, research, and writing of invitations, catalogues, and brochures, The creation and delivery of educational programming for elementary, secondary, and university students as well as for adult groups in the Fairfield community, or an independent study, working with a faculty member on a studio project in a medium of one's choice.


**Theatre**
Every year, theatre students apply for 4 competitive scholarships to serve as Production Interns for Theatre Fairfield. Internships are given in Business, Marketing, Public Relations, and Technical Theatre to assist the various faculty and guest artists in those areas. If you serve as a Production Intern, you'll gain invaluable professional experience in running a theatre operation and this will serve you well when applying for outside internships and paying jobs (with health benefits) in the professional theatre. All students may apply for these scholarships once they are enrolled in the Theatre Program; we don't accept applications from incoming freshmen.
In addition to the Production Interns listed above, we offer Internships in all facets of creating theatre, from Stage Management to Design to Managing our Costume Shop. Students eligible for Federal Work-Study Grants frequently combine the internships with their work study positions. The faculty will be happy to work you to create a new internship with Theatre Fairfield. We also strongly support students applying for internships at producing theatres throughout the U.S. and the world.

- **Department Awards**
  Every winter, the Department of Visual and Performing Arts awards grants to students who propose an exciting and well thought out independent project, performance, study abroad experience or unpaid internship. 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.

- **Keep Dreaming! Attend “Get a Gig” Meetings**
  What is your "dream job" after graduation? What are you passionate about? Talk to professionals in the field, alumni, faculty adviser and other mentors: How can you use your remaining 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. Learn how to prepare for job-hunting, interviews and networking events. See department chair for details.

- **Start Researching Graduate Schools and Other Post Graduation Options**
  Talk to Visual and Performing Arts professors about possible graduate school work in Visual and Performing Arts ... or scholarships like a Fulbright Fellowship ... or volunteer experiences such as Teach for America, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps or City Year.

- **Line Up References**
  Look for 3+ professors in Visual and Performing Arts 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.

- **Attend “Life After Fairfield” Alumni Panels**
  Attend a night of discussions with Fairfield Alumni who have graduated from the Department of Visual and Performing Arts. Students will have the opportunity to discuss how graduates are using their arts knowledge in their chosen professions as well as ask alumni what they wish they had done in their undergraduate careers to better prepare them for the outside world. This provides great networking opportunities for students as well as valuable insight into future career opportunities.

- **Major/Minor Night**
  After attending Visual and Performing Arts Major/Minor Nights, talk to professors and students about how to get the most out of the major or how to combine majors and minors to create a specialized program catered to your interests and career goals.
3B. Junior Year, University wide

- **Shadowing**
  Fairfield is expanding its program for students to shadow alumni, where the student can take an inside look at a career, get an overview of a company or industry, explore individual career options and goals, and receive advice from a professional. Students in biology and psychology are among those who benefitted in the past. Contact Alumni Relations

- **Study Abroad**
  Use a Study Abroad trip to gain a cross-cultural perspective, move toward becoming a global citizen, and think more broadly about your studies and career possibilities.

- **Resumes**
  Continue to polish and hone your resume. What’s missing? How can you use your remaining time at Fairfield most effectively?

- **Working with professors**
  Talk to your academic adviser and other professors in your department about what else you can do to build on classroom learning.

- **Leadership**
  Gain management experience - and give something back - by taking as leadership position in a campus club or student organizations.

- **Networking**
  Begin networking by connecting with Alumni Career Services and its Fairfield Alumni Network (FAN) program. Look for relevant information in the Alumni Career Webinar Series, focusing on such issues as the job search and professional development. Look at the Fairfield Alumni groups on LinkedIn and join those that are relevant. Look at the Jobs Board and Internship Board.

- **RCADE workshops**
  These free, mini-courses can strengthen technical and computer skills. These days, to compete, you must be proficient in Excel, PowerPoint and Word, plus programs you might need for specialized jobs such as Photoshop and In Design. Beyond RCADE, how can you use any final elective courses to gain additional skills needed for your dream job?

- **Summer Jobs and Internships**
  Work with your professors to help find relevant summer jobs and internships that can give you more experience and add a credit to your resume.

- **Service Learning**
  To learn about paying careers with non-profit organizations, make room on your four-year course schedule for a Service Learning course.
- Civic Engagement
  As you add to your resume, what other opportunities can you choose to give you applied experience and civic engagement beyond the classroom? They might include summer jobs, internships, leadership roles in campus clubs, or mentoring other students. Work to become a leader and an explorer, through engagement with the broader community.

- Hit The Library
  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.

- Hear from the professionals
  Attend lectures on campus when professionals in your field come to speak and often meet students. Start with the Open VISIONS Forum and other events at the Quick Center.

- Leadership
  Gain management experience - and give something back - by taking a leadership position in a campus club or student organization.

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

- Volunteer Opportunities
  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.

- Career Planning Counselor
  Have a counselor review your updated resume to develop it further and add your summer activities. Upload your resume on Experience for summer internships. Practice interviewing techniques with Counselors and take advantage of Mock Interview opportunities with real employers. Attend workshops. Participate in the Career Fair so you can see what it is like, begin meeting employers and researching who you might want to work for.
4A. Senior Year, Visual and Performing Arts Department

☐ **More Advising**
How can you best use your remaining courses and free electives to both round out your education and prepare for a career? Talk to your faculty adviser; is there room for another minor? Use your Visual and Performing Arts faculty adviser and peer advising to choose the best final internships and potential graduate schools. Be prepared for your meeting.

☐ **Mentor Underclassmen in Visual and Performing Arts Extracurricular Activities**
Mentor students in one or more of the many arts focused extracurricular activities at the University. Continue to recruit underclassmen; collaborate with other arts students both inside and outside of your discipline to brainstorm and create exciting new artistic works and projects.

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☐ **Capstone Courses**
Use the Capstone Course in your Visual and Performing Arts concentration to integrate what you have learned and reflect upon how you have grown at Fairfield and where your path will lead you next. The course also is usually a chance to also sharpen research skills, strengthen your portfolio, and make fresh connections among courses and experiences.

☐ **Final Internships**
Use your final internship(s) to try out careers, find a mentor, sharpen your resume and cover letter, develop a portfolio, make contacts, and take classroom skills and apply to real world.

☐ **Start Applying to Graduate Schools and Other Post Graduation Options**
Talk to Visual and Performing Arts professors about possible graduate school work in Visual and Performing Arts ... or scholarships like a Fulbright Fellowship ... or volunteer experiences such as Teach for America, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps or City Year.

☐ **Ask for References**
Look for 3+ professors in Visual and Performing Arts 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 speaker about your successes in an informed way.
Attend “Life After Fairfield” Alumni Panels
Attend a night of discussions with Fairfield Alumni who have graduated from the Department of Visual and Performing Arts. Students will have the opportunity to discuss how graduates are using their arts knowledge in their chosen professions as well as ask alumni what they wish they had done in their undergraduate careers to better prepare them for the outside world. This provides great networking opportunities for students as well as valuable insight into future career opportunities.

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.

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!