

## Artistic Development Guide: Transitioning into Your Fine Arts Community

### Freshmen

- Meet with your School academic advisor at least once a semester.
- Become familiar with your faculty, staff, library, resources and events, computer labs, and others who can assist you over the next four years.
- Learn to use the Internet to research your major, write a resume, learn job search strategies, find information on interviewing, auditioning, creating portfolios, and locating other career information and company information.  
Some starting points: [www.CareerCenter@ilstu.edu](mailto:www.CareerCenter@ilstu.edu); [www.nd.edu/~crosenbe/jobs.html#artgal](http://www.nd.edu/~crosenbe/jobs.html#artgal); [www.collegeart.org](http://www.collegeart.org); [www.nasad.arts-accredit.org](http://www.nasad.arts-accredit.org).
- Review various current job listings on a regular basis to discover the types of opportunities offered in your area of interest.
- Start to work on a resume and/or portfolio.
- Join a club or student chapter of an association related to your major and get involved in the community by doing career-related volunteer work. Ideas: Children's Discovery Museum; McLean County Art Center
- Attend lectures, exhibits, and performances by faculty, guests, and students. Think outside the box: Attend performances in areas of the arts outside of your own specific area of interest. Also, attend lectures offered in other Colleges on subjects that might inspire your own work.  
Local ideas: University Galleries, Transpace, McLean County Art Center, McLean County History Museum, Visiting Artist Lecture Series, Visual Culture Colloquium, Krannert Art Center.
- Begin to document your new skills, sources of inspiration, likes and dislikes, personality style, behavioral style, and work preferences in a journal.
- Visit the Career Center Office and explore the resources there.

### Sophmores

- Meet with your School academic advisor at least once a semester.
- Review student job listings on campus for freelance or part-time positions related to your field to build your experience, and resume and portfolio. Ideas: University Galleries, CVA labs, CPA opportunities, Children's Discovery Museum, McLean County Art Center, McLean County History Museum
- Continue to update and revise your resume and portfolio as your experience and skills increase.
- Enter competitions, exhibitions, conferences, and shows that welcome students. Also, apply for scholarships within your School and the University. Ideas: Transpace, Student Annual Competition, McLean County Art Center Annual Amateur Competition.
- Attend lectures, exhibits, and performances by faculty, guests and students, start learning who's who and what they are about to prepare for future networking. Ideas: Also attend ongoing exhibits by BFA/MFA students and their presentations. MFA critiques are also open to all art students.
- Attend events sponsored by the Career Center.
- Job-shadow a professional in your field.
- Continue to explore the Web for discipline-specific and career-related resources.
- Explore career goals and research possible internships for Junior Year. Review the internship site list on the Career Center Web site.
- Look for summer jobs or internships in your area of interest or a related field. If none exists near your summer residence, try to volunteer and create an opportunity for yourself.

## Junior

- Meet with your School academic advisor at least once a semester.
- Continue to build your portfolio and resumes by documenting your skills, experiences, and accomplishments. Seek feedback from faculty and professionals. Take the opportunity to improve the technical quality of your portfolio. Endeavor to create a portfolio that is technically excellent regardless of its format.
- Review student job listings on campus for freelance or part-time positions related to your field to build your experience, and resume and portfolio. Ideas: University Galleries, CVA labs, CPA opportunities, Children's Discovery Museum, McLean County Art Center, McLean County History Museum
- Research graduate school programs and look into audition/portfolio requirements as well as GRE testing, if you are considering further education.
- Complete an internship/apprenticeship within your discipline to develop job skills and gain hands-on experience in your field.
- Talk with a faculty member or professional mentor to assess your strengths and abilities.
- Look through current job listings for information on current wages, job descriptions, and company profiles.
- Attend Career Center events and begin to network with alumni and other professionals who visit campus.
- Join professional organizations as a student member if you haven't already. Ideas: CAA
- Continue to enter exhibitions, competitions, attend conferences and shows, and do career-related freelance work to build your resume and portfolio. Also, continue to apply for School and University scholarship opportunities.
- Participate in the local community by volunteering in community projects, education and the arts—to enhance your skills, network, and gain experience.

## Senior

- Meet with your School academic advisor at least once a semester.
- Continue to fine-tune your resume and portfolio through freelance, contract, part-time work, shows and competitions, exhibitions, and community service.
- Review student job listings on campus for freelance or part-time positions related to your field to build your experience, and resume and portfolio. Ideas: University Galleries, CVA labs, CPA opportunities, Children's Discovery Museum, McLean County Art Center, McLean County History Museum
- Continue to look at job listings online, in newspapers, and in trade journals. Continue to read about paths that others in your chosen field have taken.
- Continue to attend lectures, exhibitions, etc. by faculty, guests, students, and professional artists, and continue to submit work to exhibitions.
- Visit the Career Center for ideas and assistance.
- Have portfolio, designs, plans or audition pieces reviewed by different professionals in your field for a more direct, focused and informed job search.
- Complete an internship/apprenticeship before, during, or after your senior year.
- Enroll in courses that would supplement your career choice.
- If you plan to pursue graduate school, apply in early fall and request references from faculty at least two months before you need them.
- Develop your job search strategies a year before you graduate and start implementing them throughout your senior year. Don't wait until a month before graduation!
- Obtain letters of recommendation from faculty, employers, and staff for work and graduate school.