



## Center for Career & Professional Development – Senior Year

### Senior Year - *Realize your Future*

Congratulations! You have worked hard to get to this point. It is our hope you will be energized, by building your next step into the future!

This is a time to narrow down your career and/or graduate school options as well as polishing your job search and networking resources. Keep in mind the average job search is 6-9 months; so be ready to start early. For business and government organizations, the full-time job search can begin as early as a year in advance.

- If you are seeking employment, connect with the CCPD staff a semester prior to your graduation. The CCPD team can review your job search plan as you shift your job search into high gear.
- Polish your resume and business correspondence, this will be a hallmark in this stage of your search.
- Those students who stay connected with contacts in their network tend to have a faster chance in gaining job satisfaction. 70% of positions are obtained through networking. There are 4 main areas of networking to follow up with in a professional manner:
  - Social Media Connections: This is a time to review and re-connect with the professional contacts gained through social media and web based resources such as Handshake, CareerShift, and LinkedIn. Run a Google search on your name to check that social branding is professional.
  - Networking Event Connections: Continue to attend networking and career fairs and follow up with contacts.
  - Cabrini Community: Follow up with faculty, staff, coaches, advisors, and Alumni that you have built a relationship with along the way.
  - Family and Friends: Often family and friends provide additional support. This a great group to ask for advice and to review your resume.
- Harness the Power of Networking. Building a network is ongoing and a lifetime skill. Continue to attend Career Fairs and Networking Events on and off campus. Many events are advertised through Handshake.
  - Identify and target employment opportunities.
  - Refine your job search and personal branding skills.
- Consider being a member of professional associations and whether it is cost effective. Often you can become a student member at a discounted rate. This membership not only increases your network with the member directory but helps you stay current in your field.
- If Graduate/Professional School is your choice be sure you have reviewed the steps:
  - Narrow down your choice for Graduate / Professional Schools and completing the application process.
  - Complete admission tests and requirements.
  - Review and apply for scholarships.
  - Complete the personal essays and have CCPD and the Writing Center review.
- References: Whether you are looking for employment or graduate school, you will need at least three references. Consider internship supervisors, faculty, employers, and mentors. Be sure to obtain their full name, title, US mailing address, e-mail and telephone number. Meet or contact the references prior to adding them to an application.
- Continue to develop your professional wardrobe and take advantage of the CCPD Career Closet.
- Take advantage of CCPD services after graduation.
- Lastly, email us and tell us your story! We welcome you to come back as an Alum and share your tips, wisdom, and experience with new Cabrini Students. Much success!