

Senior Success



CABRINI
UNIVERSITY

Congratulations! This is your final year, and time to realize your future.

You have a lot on your mind, but try to remain focused and keep a balance between your academic, co-curricular, personal, and burgeoning professional life. We are here to help you by providing the tools for success.

Academics

- ❑ **Make sure you've applied for graduation** (cabrini.edu/registrar). The deadline was in July (cabrini.edu/academiccalendar).
- ❑ **Meet with your advisor early in the fall semester.** Make sure you're on track for graduation and that you know what you've completed and still have to complete to meet academic requirements.
- ❑ **Check your Cabrini email regularly** for important notices about graduation, senior portraits, and more.
- ❑ **Plan to attend Commencement Kick-Off** in the spring semester to receive graduation materials (cabrini.edu/commencement).
- ❑ **If grad school is in your future, start the application process** and complete all requirements by the stated deadlines. If requesting faculty and staff letters of recommendation, provide complete instructions and deadlines.
- ❑ **Study abroad.** If you haven't ready done so, consider studying abroad during your senior year. It's a rewarding educational experience and a great addition to your résumé. If you can't do a semester abroad, consider the short-term experiences during spring break (cabrini.edu/studyabroad).
- ❑ **Stay focused and finish strong.** Senioritis can set in early in the spring semester, making it difficult to stay focused on your coursework and other commitments. If possible, try to take the more difficult classes during the fall semester, so your busy spring schedule can be a bit less strenuous.

Career Preparation

- ❑ **Gain experience.** If you haven't completed an internship, this is your last year to acquire the benefits that come along with real-world experience related to your major.
- ❑ **Consider your interests, values, work ethic, and skills** and how they are compatible with careers in your chosen field.
- ❑ **Talk to your advisor about career plans.**
- ❑ **Explore available opportunities** through the Center for Career and Professional Development (cabrini.edu/career).
- ❑ **Clarify the job that you want and be specific about places where you'd like to work.** When people ask what you're doing after graduation, your answer can be more than just, "Hopefully, get a job."
- ❑ **Share your career objectives and interests** with faculty, staff, friends, family, and acquaintances. Ask them to let you know if they learn of a job that you could pursue.
- ❑ **Finalize your résumé** and ask a faculty or staff member who is aware of your skills and abilities to review it and provide feedback.
- ❑ **Include campus organizations, teams, and leadership opportunities.** You've acquired skills that employers value, and it's important to be sure that you've highlighted them on your résumé.
- ❑ **Line up your references.** Reach out to faculty and staff you feel would be your best references and ask if you can give out their contact information.

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Career Preparation (continued)

- ❑ **Network ... a lot!**
- ❑ **Join LinkedIn** and connect with professional organizations that match your career interests.
- ❑ **Professionalize your social media.**
Your Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other social media are easily accessible, and it's not hard for employers to discover how you behave online. Look at your social media image as if you were a prospective employer and delete posts and photos accordingly.
- ❑ **Participate in career and job fairs** and any on-campus recruitment activities promoted by the Center for Career and Professional Development.
- ❑ **Take advantage of Cabrini's membership in Campus Philly** to explore the opportunities they offer to connect with potential employers.
- ❑ **Professionalize your wardrobe** with attire that is appropriate for job interviews.
- ❑ **Look into webinars** focusing on seniors, résumés, cover letters, and mock interviews.
- ❑ **Always prepare for an interview** by researching the company.

Community and Involvement

- ❑ **Join a student organization.** Senior year is the last chance to get involved with activities you've been interested in, but never took the time to join. Share your knowledge and contribute to the success of a group or activity.
- ❑ **Plan to enjoy Senior Week activities** the week before graduation.
- ❑ **Consider contributing to the Senior Class Gift** (cabrini.edu/seniorgift).

Personal Growth

- ❑ **Visit the Financial Aid Office** to discuss the loans you may have taken out to finance your education, how much you owe, what the repayment terms will be, and when you have to start paying so that you can plan accordingly after graduation (cabrini.edu/financialaid).
- ❑ **Check your credit report** for free at freeannualcreditreport.com to ensure that it is accurate and that your credit score is good. Post-graduation, you might want to purchase a car, rent an apartment, or apply for a job that requires a credit check.
- ❑ **Follow up with your health insurance carrier** to be sure that your coverage continues after graduation.
- ❑ **Make sure the Alumni Office has your post-graduation contact information** and check out alumni events and opportunities to stay involved with your class and Cabrini after graduation (cabrini.edu/alumni).
- ❑ **Celebrate and enjoy your last year at Cabrini.** Senior year has many important milestones and requirements, but you should also make time to have fun hanging out, socializing with friends, enjoying events for seniors, and thinking about how far you've come since freshman year!