

# Professional Development Blueprint

A career preparation guide for undergraduate students in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Check for updates and online resources at [engineering.buffalo.edu/pd-blueprint](http://engineering.buffalo.edu/pd-blueprint)

## 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR

## 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR

## 3<sup>RD</sup> YEAR

## 4<sup>TH</sup> OR FINAL YEAR

### EXPLORATION

Profile the credentials and specializations of faculty members or industry professionals.

Explore [engineering clubs](#) and attend general meetings for clubs that interest you.

Evaluate your interests, values, and skills by taking the [MyPlan](#) assessment and meet with a [Career Counselor](#) to discuss your specific results.

Research [study abroad](#) opportunities.

Review research articles on topics of interest to become more familiar with contributors to the field and more versed in digesting academic writing.

Observe an MS thesis or PhD dissertation defense presentation.

Attend the [Celebration of Academic Excellence](#) to explore research and creative works by UB peers.

Explore [entrepreneurship](#) resources like [Blackstone LaunchPad](#).

Explore [graduate schools](#) and faculty research initiatives to prepare for campus visits and prepare for [GRE](#), [LSAT](#), or [MCAT](#) exams if necessary.

Attend research seminars to keep abreast of current research in your discipline.

Attend the spring [Graduate Research Poster Competition](#).

Research requirements for careers of interest and identify opportunities to fill skills gaps.

Explore considerations such as the cost of living, job market, and average salary in geographic areas of interest as you apply for jobs or graduate schools.

### CONNECTIONS

Sign up for [Engineering Small Groups](#) for academic support in core curriculum courses.

Participate in [Saturdays of Service](#) to serve your community and network with UB students and staff.

Attend the spring [Senior Design Expo](#) to engage with students presenting their capstone design projects.

Participate in a [Life and Learning](#) networking workshop.

Register for [REALM](#), a professional networking and shadowing opportunity in the Buffalo or NYC regions.

Research professional technical societies related to your discipline and carry out [informational interviews](#) with members of the organizations to learn more.

Develop a relationship with a faculty advisor.

Identify and meet a career mentor through the UB [Career Connector Network](#).

Join a technical society related to your discipline.

Attend technical society meetings to network with professionals in your field.

Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest within your discipline.

After graduation, stay in touch with UB through [UB Connect](#) and the [Engineering Alumni LinkedIn group](#).

### EXPERIENCE

Pursue a self-led hands-on [tinkering project](#) to enhance technical skills and prepare for future team projects.

Participate in [Engineers Week](#) and check out activities like Bot Wars and Quadcopter Racing.

[Study abroad](#) in [Troyes, France](#) during the summer semester.

Join an [engineering club](#) during the spring semester.

Participate in [engineering intramurals](#), short-term extra-curricular projects completed in small groups.

Engage in a leadership or communication workshop as part of the [Life and Learning](#) series.

Apply for research experiences through [REU](#) and [CURCA](#).

Run for an [engineering club](#) executive board position for junior year.

Find an internship or co-op by participating in the [STEM UP](#) job and internship fair in the fall.

Complete an [Engineering Intramurals](#) project.

Participate in a [CURCA](#) research project at UB or spend the summer participating in [Research Experiences for Undergraduates \(REU\)](#).

Run for the President or Director of an [engineering club](#) for your senior year.

Find and pursue an [internship](#) or [co-op](#) through [STEM UP](#), [Bullseye](#), [Indeed](#) etc.

Learn about the guidelines for international students seeking [Curricular Practical Training](#) during senior year.

Continue internships or find a student assistant/grader position.

Continue to contribute to student clubs and other organizations, taking on an increasing level of responsibility.

Learn about the requirements for international students pursuing [Optional Practical Training](#) after graduation.

### CAREER FUNDAMENTALS

Learn about professional etiquette for [writing e-mails](#) and [dressing to impress](#).

Participate in a time management workshop as part of the [Life and Learning](#) series.

Create a [resume](#) and set up a student profile on [Bullseye](#), an interactive job and internship resource.

Observe the fall [STEM UP](#) job and internship fair to prepare for active participation the following year.

Attend a LinkedIn workshop through the [Life and Learning](#) series.

Attend a job and internship search strategy workshop as part of the [Life and Learning](#) series.

Make an [appointment](#) at [Career Services](#) to have your resume, cover letter, and LinkedIn profile reviewed prior to applying for an internship.

Polish your [interviewing skills](#) by doing a practice interview session with [Career Services](#).

Update your [resume](#) as you master new skills, projects, and experiences.

Learn about the requirements for [Professional Engineer \(PE\) Licensure](#).

Search for job opportunities by engaging with employers at the fall [STEM UP](#) job and internship fair.

Apply to graduate schools and/or graduate fellowships.

Attend a UB [salary negotiation](#) workshop.

Register to take the [Fundamentals of Engineering Exam](#).

Complete the First Destination Survey in the spring.

Take a professional oath during the [Order of the Engineer](#) and [Pledge of the Computing Professional](#) ceremony.