Intro to Fellowships & Career For First-Generation Students

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Overview

- Navigating Resources as First Gen Students
- Pathways to Research Success
- Pathways to Career Success
- Time Management and Long-Term Planning
- Goals Setting Activity
Navigating Resources as First-Gen Students

- **Theoretical Frameworks**
  - **High-Impact Practices (HIPs)**
    - “An investment of time and energy over an extended period that has unusually positive effects on student engagement in educationally purposeful behavior.” — Dr. George Kuh, Director of the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment and Founding Director of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
  - **Yosso’s Community Cultural Wealth Model**
    - Recognizes the talents, strengths and resources you bring through your unique lived experiences as a first-generation college student.
    - Forms of **social and cultural capital**: Think about the power of community, family, relationships, networks, storytelling and resisting structural barriers.
Navigating Resources as First-Gen Students

- **5 Major Categories**
  - **Academics**
    - Study strategies | faculty mentors | funded research opportunities | capstone projects
  - **Study Abroad / Global Engagement**
    - Short-term (few weeks) or long-term (one semester/year) | international fellowships
  - **Leadership**
    - Campus & community involvements | USG, clubs and orgs, volunteering | service learning
  - **Professional**
    - Internships & jobs | career exploration | informational interviews | networking
  - **Personal**
    - Health and wellbeing | time management | friends, family and support systems
Pathways to Research Success
Identifying Potential Faculty Mentors

- Experts Directory: [pressroom.usc.edu](pressroom.usc.edu)
- [List of First-Gen Faculty & Staff](#)
- Office Hours
- Email Etiquette
  - Always address faculty as Dr. or Professor (not Mr./Mrs.)
  - Be concise
    - Brief introduction of yourself (USC ID, year, major/minor)
    - Reason for connecting ("I would like to learn more about your research lab...")
    - Demonstrate you have done your background research on the faculty
    - Give concrete next-step actions & provide availability ("If possible, I would like to meet in person to discuss my interests further...")
  - End with thank you and contact info.
  - If you end up meeting with the professor, follow up with a quick thank you email.
Identifying Potential Faculty Mentors

- **Be intentional** - go into the meeting with specific goals and questions
- **Be proactive** - if faculty gives you suggestions for next steps, or other resources to pursue, do those before setting up another meeting
- **You may need to follow up**
  - Faculty are very busy, and often they may not respond to your inquiry right away.
  - It’s okay to follow up after a week if you have not heard back.
- **Give faculty a heads up if you need something from them** - Don’t expect last-minute accommodations
  - This is especially true for requesting letters of recommendation
- **Go beyond the transactional**
  - Get to know each other as people. Faculty may be interested to know more about your background, family, hobbies, etc. These relationships can be meaningful and last beyond your time at USC!
Pathways to Research @ USC

- **Provost Undergraduate Research Fellowship** ($1000 funding for fall, spring, summer)
- **SURF / SHURE** (Dornsife research funding for summer)
- **SOAR** (Dornsife research funding for fall/spring)
- **Maymester / Problems Without Passport** (short-term study abroad options)
- **Gateway Scholars** (summer research program for first-gen students)
- **Mellon Mays** (funding for sophomores/juniors for underrepresented students planning to pursue PhD)
- **Senior Thesis** (490x)
- **Discovery Scholars Distinction** (academic honors & $10,000 prize towards graduate study)
- **Research Events**
  - Writers’ Conference
  - Undergraduate Symposium
Pathways to Career Success
Pathways to Career Success

Why go to the Career Center?

- **Advising**
  - We assist you in making informed decisions
  - We can help you set and realize your goals
- **Assessing and Exploring**
  - We help students learn about and explore career options in all industries
- **Achieving**
  - We coach you through finding and applying for opportunities that match your goals, skills, and interests
Pathways to Career Success

- **Advising**
  - Drop-Ins, Monday - Friday, 12pm - 3pm in STU 110
  - Schedule an appointment via connectSC

- **Assessing and Exploring**
  - CareerBeam Assessment (under online resources on cSC)
  - Plus a bunch of other resources, like Vault Guides, Hoovers, etc.

- **Achieving**
  - Attend events like i3 (1/29 & 1/30), the Career Fair (2/6), Trojan Talks, and school-based events
Pathways to Career Success

Year 1 - Assess
○ Explore Majors
○ Create a Resume
○ Get Involved

Year 2 - Explore
○ Choose a Major
○ Explore Careers
○ Build Resume Writing, Interviewing, and Networking Skills
○ Find a Summer Position (research, internship, job)

Year 3 - Develop Skills
○ Gain Experience
○ Network and Build Relationships
○ Polish your Interviewing Skills
○ Research Graduate Schools and Fellowships

Year 4 - Dive into the Job Search
○ Seek Employment
○ Apply to Graduate School and Fellowships
○ Stay Focused!
Strategies for Career Success

- Use your first college semester to explore and adjust, and get involved
- Stop by some career center events, like workshops or even a drop-in appointment for a quick chat
- Even if you don’t plan on using your resume anytime soon, it doesn’t hurt to get it reviewed
- Go to office hours!
- Find a mentor
- Networking never ends
- Always write a thank you email. ALWAYS.
- Don’t wait until a few weeks before the summer to start looking for an internship
- Avoid being that senior that comes in the Spring before graduation looking for a job
Additional Resources
Academic Resources

There are a variety of resources for learning support based on the school or subject. Check out these services and programs for academic advisement, peer tutoring, preparing for careers/graduate school, and more.

Support Systems

The University has developed a variety of campus resources to provide additional support to students.
First Gen Student Union

FGSU has three main objectives:

(1) Foster a community for first-generation students at USC.
(2) Facilitate the transition to college for first-generation students by pointing them to the right resources and providing them with valuable information through speaker events and workshop opportunities.
(3) Provide a platform for first-generation students to collectively express their concerns about first gen issues and support them collaboratively to advocate for those issues.

Sophomore Seminar: Career Pathways

2-unit, sophomore seminar course that exposes students to the connection between potential careers and academic programs in the liberal arts and sciences.
Awards & Fellowships Database

This database provides a list of internal and external award opportunities. Note that some of these awards are not directly affiliated with USC, but it is meant to be more of an open source. Filter by specific awards criteria and eligibility requirements.
**Kortschak Center for Learning and Creativity**
An academic success center that offers an innovative approach to learning for students that experience academic difficulties. The center provides insight and guidance into your strengths and preferred method of learning through academic coaching, and also hosts workshops related to time management, stress management and goal setting.

**Campus Support and Intervention**
CSI connects with members of the USC community when they need support in achieving their academic, professional, and/or personal goals. We can provide consultation, in person or over the phone, to learn more about your individual situation so we can provide guidance and help you connect with relevant campus and community resources.
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<th>Office of International Services</th>
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<td>International Student Services offers comprehensive services for the international community at USC. The office also offers opportunities for interaction among international and domestic students, scholars, faculty and staff through programs and activities with an international and intercultural focus.</td>
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<th>Volunteer Center</th>
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<td>The Volunteer Center offers volunteer and community involvement opportunities for the entire USC community. The center also offers service-learning opportunities abroad during Spring Break.</td>
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Summer Opportunity Fair

Tomorrow (November 7) from 11 am - 1 pm at TCC Ballroom A/B

- Africa Student Fund
- Behavioral and Experimental Economics Lab
- Bridge UnderGraduate Science (BUGS) Program
- Coro Southern California Fellowship in Public Affairs
- Critical Language Scholarship
- USC East Asian Studies Center
- Fulbright US-UK Summer Institutes
- Gateway Internship Program
- Gilman Scholarship
- Global Fellows Summer Internship Program
- Information Sciences Institute
- USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health
- USC Korean Studies Institute (KSI) Fellows Program
- Leonard D. Schaeffer Fellows in Government Service
- Liver Transplant Research Group at USC
- Marshall School of Business Summer Internships
- Near Crisis Project
- Off-campus Faculty-Led Programs, Dornsife Scholarships SURF, SOAR & SHURE
- Spatial Sciences Problems Without Passports
- Provost Undergraduate Research Fellowship program
- Regulatory Science Research Team – School of Pharmacy
- Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)
- USC Sidney Harman Academy for Polymathic Study
- Viterbi Summer Research for Undergraduates
- Warren Bennis Scholars Program
- The Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) Undergraduate Research Experience
Thank you!

Questions?

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Gina - gibrahim@usc.edu
Rashelle - rwnagata@usc.edu
# Roadmap to Success

## REFLECTION: SHORT TERM GOALS
Reflect on your own narrative and the experiences you have accumulated up to this point. What are the influences that have shaped your outlook and values? What drives you to succeed?

What issues/topics do you care deeply about? What are you curious to explore?

What skillsets do you have? What are skillsets you currently lack and want to improve upon?

Think about all of your commitments (school, work, family, etc.). What will be feasible for you to achieve?

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### WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL GET YOU THERE?

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# Roadmap to Success

## Professional

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# Roadmap to Success

## Cross-Cultural Engagement

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REFLECTION: LONG-TERM GOALS

Imagine your future in 5 – 10 years. Where do you see yourself personally, academic, and professionally?

How do the short-term goals you aim to accomplish this year help you clarify or prepare for attaining those long-term goals?

ADDITIONAL NOTES