

Planning for Academic Success

Summer Options

Summer is almost upon us. There are several options students can pursue over the summer to progress academically and/or enhance their résumés.

Courses

Summer is a great time for students to catch up on their coursework, meet the summer requirement, and/or get ahead on courses. USF offers three summer sessions that are broken up as follows:

Summer A – May 12 – June 20, 2014 (6 Weeks)

Summer B – June 30 – August 8, 2014 (6 Weeks)

Summer C – May 12 – July 18, 2014 (10 Weeks)

Students are encouraged to discuss funding options with Financial Aid to determine what aid can be applied, as well as if summer courses can be applied to renewing existing scholarships. The maximum load that can be taken at USF in the summer is 14 hours.

Work

Student can choose to work over the summer. Aside from financial gain, students can also attain transferable skills that can be highlighted on their résumés. Additionally, summer jobs can help students explore their interests. Career Services provides students with job search resources, including résumé writing and interview skills. More information can be found online at <http://www.usf.edu/career-services/students/job-search.aspx>.

Shadowing

Another great way to use the summer is to explore potential career fields by shadowing professionals. For students who are intending to pursue additional education at a health professional school, there is an expectation that students will shadow multiple physicians. Information concerning the shadowing experience for the health professions is online at <http://www.cas.usf.edu/healthprofessions/involvement/shadowing/>. Even if your student's chosen field is outside of medicine, he or she could benefit from shadowing an experienced professional. This could lead to a mentoring relationship.

Internships & Cooperative Education (Co-op)

Summer is also an opportune time to do an internship or participate in a Co-op. Several majors offer internship/practicum credit, and many internship sites require students to receive internship credit to qualify for the internship. Students should check with their advisors for more information. Additionally, Career Services has great information on their website at <http://www.usf.edu/career-services/students/internships-and-co-op.aspx>.

Research

Undergraduate research is a fantastic way for students to engage with the university and with their major. Moreover, research provides students with the opportunity to work closely with a faculty member, as well as have the potential to present at a conference/colloquium and/or publish an article. The Office for Undergraduate Research (OUR) can help students get started on this path through their Getting Started Workshop Series. OUR is located on the second floor of the library. Their website is <http://lib.usf.edu/undergraduate-research/>.

Volunteer

Students can use time in the summer to volunteer. This is an opportunity to give back to the community. Additionally, students can gain job-applicable skills and leadership opportunities. The Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement can help students get started by providing them with community service opportunities (<http://leadandserve.usf.edu/serve.php>). Additionally, students can check with their academic majors to see if there are any major-related volunteer opportunities.

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