

# CAREER AND ACADEMIC PLANNING

## PART 4: EXPERIENCE

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Now that you have narrowed down your major and career...look for opportunities to get involved as a student. Experiential learning provides you with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in your chosen career field. These opportunities help you to develop professional and career-related skills and allows you to explore various career fields and work environments. Experiential learning also provides an opportunity to make industry specific network connections. Think about your career choice from part 3. Now, identify 1 way you can obtain experience in your field before you graduate.

### A. Volunteer Experiences

Review the following websites and locate a volunteer opportunity that would serve as an experiential learning opportunity to help you gain hands-on experience. Find opportunities that allow you to practice a skill related to your field or work with the population you will eventually serve. For example, if you want to be an elementary school teacher you could apply to be an Every 1 Reads volunteer for JCPD to assist students with their reading skills.

The opportunities on these sites change daily so it is important that you start your search process early and explore opportunities over several days to understand the availability of opportunities.

- Volunteer Match: <http://www.volunteermatch.org/>
- Louisville Metro United Way: <https://metrounitedway.org/Volunteer/QuickSearch.jsp>
- LinkedIn Volunteer site: <https://volunteer.linkedin.com/>

Once you have identified a volunteer opportunity related to your career goals, complete the following:

- How would this volunteer opportunity provide you with the opportunity to practice skills related to your long term goals? Identify at least 3 skills you would have the opportunity to demonstrate through this experience and explain how each skill relates to your long term career goals.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

### B. Transferrable Skills

Think about any position you have held (paid or unpaid) and answer the following questions:

- Identify four skills you demonstrate in this position and explain how each skill relates to your long term career goals. You may find the following link helpful in identifying these transferrable skills: <http://crew.cc/services/resume/top-ten-skills>
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.