Success Beyond State: By This Time Next Year You’ll Be Working In Your Own Profession

Whether your destination after State is employment, graduate or professional school, your senior year is a critical time. Developing and executing a strategy to meet your goals is crucial, especially in these challenging economic times. The good news is we have a great network of Career Services professionals to help you develop a customized search strategy that’s right for you. An effective search strategy is built upon three key components.

✓ Self Assessment & Priority Identification. Your interests, values, and skills form the core of what you offer. These remain stable even when you switch jobs, but they get refined as you gain experience. Assessment tools like the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator help you articulate what you want and where there’s a likely fit. You also need to think about your priority for the next 2-3 years. It may be finding a dream job, experimenting with a different career, or just earning money for graduate school. If priorities change, so should your strategy.

✓ Knowledge of the World of Work. There are many more jobs out there than the small percentage that get posted. Uncovering those that match your aspirations requires some digging. It starts with basic research, using resources which describe the tasks, work environments, and skills used in a given job. Advanced resources such as field-specific journals and websites (e.g., The Wall Street Journal if you’re interested in investment banking; Chemistry.org if you’re interested in scientific research) help you discover the major employers that hire for the jobs you want. To know if you’re on the right track, you will eventually need to talk with people who work in the field. This is called informational interviewing, and it’s the best way to get the insights you’ll need to become a strong candidate.

✓ Understanding Search Processes. Searching for a job isn’t like taking a class. For starters, there’s no syllabus…unless you create it yourself. Although the resume seems like a writing assignment, it’s really a personal ad. The interview, which looks like an exam, is more like a date: it determines whether there are enough interests in common to take the relationship a step further. The process works only if you take charge, which may force you to adopt new ways of thinking. In addition, your internal processes — how you make decisions (methodically or spontaneously), how you learn (by studying, observing, or experiencing) — affect the execution of your strategy.

Your search strategy starts when you know what you want to do and who may hire you to do it. It’s a game plan for writing a targeted resume, going through the application process, interviewing, and negotiating an offer. Career Services offers a variety of workshops, individual advising, career fairs, on-campus interviewing, and networking opportunities that can play a vital part in developing and executing your strategy. Visit us at careernetwork.msu.edu for more information.

What is MySpartanCareer.com? It’s your resource guide to careers, internships and much, much more. Only for MSU students and alumni, this website allows you to access job and internship postings, career fair information and career-related workshops. At MySpartanCareer.com you’ll create a profile, post your resume, apply for part time jobs and internships, research employers, apply for full time jobs, manage your on-campus interviews and access other career-related announcements and resources.

For more information about careers, internships and links to the latest career resources, visit the MSU Career Services Network at careernetwork.msu.edu.
Community Liaison Connects Students to East Lansing!

Welcome back to East Lansing! Please take note of the following resources available to help you become more involved in your community:

- The City of East Lansing website is newly redesigned and is a great resource to bookmark! It features a section specifically for Student-Residents and another about Student Life in East Lansing. This site offers helpful information regarding trash pick-up days, downtown shopping and dining, important ordinances and more. Visit www.cityofeastlansing.com/StudentResidents to check it out.

- MSU’s College Life: East Lansing website is designed to introduce students to life in East Lansing in an effort to make students successful both on and off campus. The site includes information regarding housing, events and entertainment, downtown shopping and dining, as well as important ordinance and law information. The Community Liaison manages this website as part of an effort to support student involvement and promote a shared respect for the East Lansing community. Learn more at www.collegelifeEL.msu.edu.

- When deciding where to live next year, MSU’s Housing Listing Service can help students explore their options. This free service features multiple property listings and includes advanced search filters, a roommate finder, message boards, and educational resources. Visit offcampushousing.msu.edu to start your search.

- The Community Relations Coalition is a group made up of students, permanent residents, City and University officials, police, and community vendors, and has been created to address concerns in the community and to enhance relationships. The group employs MSU students as interns in the neighborhoods close to campus who serve as resources to the students in the neighborhood. Visit WeAllLiveHere.org to learn more and meet the interns.

- MSU’s Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement offers students with a wonderful connection to many opportunities for contribution to the greater Lansing community. Last year, approximately 700 students served in East Lansing. The University is extremely proud of their contributions to the community they live in. Visit servicelearning.msu.edu to learn more.

- Support Your School

Each year, since 1873, the graduating senior class has shown dedication and support by donating money back to the University as a senior class gift upon graduation. The money raised helps beautify campus, aid future students, or fund projects like the Sparty Restoration Project.

In the past, seniors could choose to donate to their college or a particular program from which they graduated. The money went toward a variety of programs and projects, including student scholarships, study abroad programs, lectureships or new technology for MSU classrooms. Students who cannot make an immediate donation can participate in the Spartan Pledge Plan, in which they pledge a sum of money now and pay up to a year later. Visit the ASMSU Business Office website at asmsu.msu.edu.

Once a Spartan... Always a Spartan

Regardless of your plans after graduation, whether you go to Zimbabwe or New Zealand, East Lansing or Chicago, you will always be a Spartan. A great way to stay connected to Michigan State University is through the MSU Alumni Association and MSU alumni clubs throughout Michigan, the United States, and worldwide. Membership in the Alumni Association helps you network worldwide with MSU alumni and entitles you to discounts at hotels, dining facilities, car rental companies, moving services and others. Alumni Career Services are offered too. More information about benefits of memberships on-line at alumni.msu.edu.

Hey You... Get Involved!

Alright, you’ve been here for a couple of years. Have you joined a Registered Student Organization yet? Have you become a part of ASMSU (your undergraduate student government)? Have you joined a chapter in MSU’s Greek community? If you have answered “no” to these questions, the only remaining question is WHY NOT? Involvement in student groups can provide you with great opportunities to meet new friends, assume leadership positions, and apply what you are learning in classes to real-life issues.

If you are interested in getting involved, but not sure how to go about it, check out the list of Registered Student Organizations that is available on the Department of Student Life’s website at studentlife.msu.edu. The list has contact information for most of the over 660 organizations. Would you rather meet with some of the organizations’ membership in-person? Then plan to attend Fall Welcome Spartan Spectacular from 4-10pm at Munn Field on Tuesday, August 28 to be a part of Sparticipation ‘12. For more information visit fallwelcome.msu.edu.

Campus Sustainability — Be Spartan Green

Every day, MSU Spartans work to create life-changing solutions for a better world.

Our actions are powered by more than a century-and-a-half commitment to empowering ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Working together we can move mountains—or preserve them for future generations.

MSU is one of the world’s top research universities and one of the nation’s top sustainable campuses. Through teaching, research, outreach, and campus innovation—Spartans are working to improve the quality of life at MSU and in communities around the globe.

The impact? Clean and affordable energy, access to education, safe food, and clean water supplies. This means improved health, less work, more efficiency, and a more hopeful and sustainable future for all.

There are plenty of opportunities for students to get involved in sustainability at MSU; visit www.bespartangreen.msu.edu to see how you can Be Spartan Green!
Learning Outside The Classroom

Being a student is not just about taking classes and fulfilling degree requirements. It’s about becoming involved in your whole undergraduate experience. There are many ways for you to enhance your employability, develop marketable skills, and prepare for a career by learning outside of the classroom. Be sure to take advantage of these opportunities!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: Try joining one of the hundreds of student organizations on campus. It’s a great way to meet people, develop special interests and gain leadership skills. A complete list of student organizations on campus is available from the Department of Student Life at studentlife.msu.edu.

STUDY ABROAD: With over 275 programs on every continent – from Asia to Antarctica – study abroad can give your degree an international edge. MSU offers a broad range of learning experiences beyond the borders of East Lansing in more than 60 different countries. You can choose from programs offered every semester (including winter and spring breaks) with diverse course options that make it possible for any major to participate. Internships and community engagement models allow for hands-on experience that contributes to the local culture and provides reflection on your professional development.

MSU also makes study abroad financially accessible by offering a liberal financial aid policy as well as numerous study abroad scholarships and grants to help ease financial concerns. Most of all, you’ll have the experience of a lifetime while acquiring independence, self-confidence and global awareness. Visit the web at studyabroad.msu.edu for more information.

Wellness Matters for Personal & Academic Success

To all our returning MSU students, we want to say “welcome back to another exciting year!” By now you are probably aware that successful transition to college isn’t just about academics. As a returning student, you may have experienced firsthand or know of classmates who had health problems or challenges that made it difficult for them to attend class, concentrate or complete assignments on time and whose grades suffered as a result. Indeed, it is the loss of a student’s health (physical or emotional) or sense of safety (physical or emotional) that can most significantly impact a student’s ability to be truly successful academically.

Every 2 years we conduct a campus wide survey called the National Collegiate Health Assessment (NCHA) survey. This survey asks questions about the health and wellness behaviors, perceptions and concerns of MSU students that have impacted their health and/or academics. Through this information gathering we are able to provide you information, resources and tools to ensure your personal and academic success while at MSU.

For example, something as simple as a cold or flu can cause one to miss class or not complete homework. Indeed, NCHA results show: 51% of MSU students reported having had a cold or flu in the last academic year; and, 16% stated that had a negative impact on their academics. A simple preventative measure for you in the upcoming year is to wash your hands, and cover your mouth when you cough. Other health concerns are more complicated, but the impact can be as if not more negative: 84% of MSU students stated they were affected by stress (to the point of feeling overwhelmed at least once during the year); 25% reported that their academic performance was negatively impacted by stress. Did you know that you can help yourself decrease stress and help manage it better through simple strategies such as using a planner, not falling behind on assignments and scheduling regular activities such as exercise, talking issues over with family and friends, getting enough sleep, etc.

The results from NCHA 2012 will be highlighted in a brochure, I’m a Spartan – True Life: Wellness Matters for Personal and Academic Success. It will be available during Fall 2012 online at www.olin.msu.edu (just click on TRU-LIFE). Other topics covered include the following: Tobacco use, Nutrition, Physical Activity, Injury Prevention, pregnancy Prevention, Sexually Transmitted Infection prevention, Sexual Assault and Relationship violence Prevention, Depression & Anxiety, Suicide Prevention, Alcohol & Drugs. Each topic has what MSU students say and do (perception vs. reality), why it matters and what you can do to help yourself or others. Be sure to check it out!

Our primary job at MSU, is to help students be academically and personally successful at MSU. We believe we can help maximize your ability to do your academic best by providing the information and resources you need to help avoid and/or minimize the impact of health problems or poor lifestyle choices. We wish you a safe and healthy journey through your years at Michigan State University. Indeed, with this information, you can look forward to a challenging, exciting and successful year ahead.

2012 Fall Housing Fair

Looking for a place to live next year or haven’t thought about it yet? Then plan to attend the Fall 2012 Housing Fair on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 from Noon - 5:30p.m. at the MSU Union Building.

Come to the Fall 2012 Housing Fair and check out your options! Property representatives will be in attendance in addition to service and education providers.

More than 50 Property Representatives will be attending with information on dozens of area apartments, houses, duplexes, on-campus living opportunities and more. For more information visit studentlife.msu.edu.

Don’t Miss This Opportunity to Showcase Your Talents

The University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF) provides a wonderful opportunity for undergraduate students to showcase their original research, scholarship, and creative works in a venue that is professional, academic, and fun. The Forum is held every spring and is open to all MSU students who are engaged in original work.

Students participate in a conference-like setting, showcasing their work through oral, poster, or performance demonstration sessions. Faculty members serve as judges, and students are eligible to win monetary prizes for their work. UURAF 2013 will be held on Friday, April 12 in the MSU Union. For more information, please visit urca.msu.edu/uuraf.
Did You Know…

All MSU undergrads are required to submit an Immunization Self-Report form.

Failure to complete this requirement will affect a student's ability to register and enroll.

- Go to immunize.msu.edu
- Contact uphys@msu.edu or call (517) 353-9101 with questions.

If you have already completed this form and have recently gotten a hepatitis B, chickenpox, meningococcal or tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis, hepatitis A or measles/mumps/rubella vaccination, please visit the site to update your record.

Thank you for attending to this important health matter!