

To Do List For the Summer

1. Draft your career goals

Write down whether you want to get an internship first or search for jobs that offer positions you like. You can also make a list of your goals or what you want to accomplish. (Alexandria, 2023)

2. Get an internship.

“If you get a [summer internship](#), you’ll have the chance to see how people in your chosen field work. Regardless of the amount of skilled labor you do, you can get a feel for the jobs you might have in the future. The earlier you see how much you might enjoy working in a certain field, the earlier you can determine whether you want to stay in the same major or change it. The work experience you gain in an internship is also incredibly valuable for your future résumé.” (Wilgeroth, 2022)

3. Get a Job

“Many college students pay for school by working part-time outside of their class schedule. Needless to say, [balancing the two](#) can get pretty tricky. If you load up on some savings before school starts, you might be able to work a little less, giving yourself some extra breathing room to navigate your class schedule effectively. If you want to avoid working long hours while you’re in college, get a summer job.” (Wilgeroth, 2022)

4. Learn a new skill / get a certification.

Free time during the summer is the best opportunity in your hands to learn soft/hard skills, this could be earning a certification (google analytics has free ones), learning how to use a Microsoft service, learning a language, improving your writing or communication skills etc. (Alexandria, 2023)

5. Update your resume.

Having an up-to-date resume can help you in your job search and give potential employers a clear understanding of your skills and experiences. You'll want to continue to update that resume throughout your college career as marketable skills evolve. (Aubrey & Hanes, 2023)

6. Make connections.

Try to get more involved in organizations outside of MSU. Visit some organizations, meet new people, and investigate places that interest you. Look up people in your field who are successful and reach out to them and ask questions. If you think that’s intimidating, learn how to! You can connect with your teachers and even your roommates. (Alexandria & Hanes, 2023)

7. Review academic content

“You can also get a head start on classes by reaching out to professors and asking for the syllabus early so that they know what to expect. This may also give you the chance to get a jump-start on reading for the fall classes you'll be taking.” (Moody, 2021)

8. Research your interests

Research your chosen career or job so that you have a good idea of the skills you need or what you can improve on. This can also let you know what types of jobs are out there because a major or minor can be utilized in a variety of ways. (Alexandria, 2023)

9. Volunteer at a local charity

“The summer is the perfect time to volunteer for a charity you care about. Like a job, these volunteer hours will look good on your résumé, especially if you want to work for a charity or nonprofit in the future.

To find volunteer opportunities, research some of the charities working in your area. Most cities have charities that work with animals, help the homeless, or assist refugees. Think about the type of work you care about, then see if there are any local places willing to take volunteers.” (Wilgeroth, 2022)

10. Make a local bucket list

“It’s easy to take your own hometown for granted. There might be a bunch of things you never got around to trying! If you’re away from college, you should try to get everything you’ve always wanted to do in your hometown. Live like a tourist in your own city, embracing the comforts of home with a fresh perspective.” (Wilgeroth, 2022)

Resources

1. Moody, J. (2021). *9 things to do the summer before college*. U. S. News. Retrieved May 4, 2023, from <https://www.USNews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/things-to-do-the-summer-before-college>.
2. Wilgeroth, N. (2022, October 5). *10 best summer activities for college-bound students*. Colleges of Distinction. Retrieved May 4, 2023, from <https://CollegesOfDistinction.com/advice/summer-activities-college-students/>.
3. Peer Mentors: Alexandria Givens, Aubrey Hardy, Hanes Koshy