If you’ve picked up this handout, you’re already moving in the right direction towards finding a great internship or landing your first job! Career searches can be tough, especially if you don’t know where to start. Career Services wants to assist you in starting off on the right foot by providing information on how you may utilize the skills you possess in a variety of positions and fields.

- Enhance your skills, expand your knowledge, and develop increased confidence that yes, you can be successful in the world of work.
- Meet and develop relationships with professionals who often become mentors, role models, and friends. This is sometimes called networking—a scary term for an otherwise simple concept.
- As you explore organizations and professions, and get one step closer to answering the BIG question, “What am I going to be when I grow up?”, some potential occupational categories to consider include environmental engineer/scientist/consultant/manager, nature and wetlands specialist, geologist, wildlife conservation, wastewater treatment, natural resources, public policy, sustainability or quality assurance.
Tips for a Successful Search

- Define your goals.
  What area would you like to “test-drive” to see if you like it? Develop a list of criteria. Employers want applicants who understand their strengths and have specific goals.

- Plan to spend time each week on your search.
  Schedule and organize the time you spend on your search. Stay focused and motivated. It is easier and more effective to do a little each week instead of trying to do everything at once. Be proactive in your search.

- Research and identify opportunities (also see resource list at the end).
  There are three ways to find opportunities: A) You can search advertised listings; B) You can be proactive and approach employers that interest you, and C) You can build your network of people who can help you identify unadvertised listing. It’s best to spend time on all three approaches.

- Prepare and submit application materials.
  Every employer has specific requirements; following instructions is key. Always send a cover letter with a resume unless it specifies otherwise.

- Keep records and follow up.
  Typically, the best time to follow up is a few days to a week after you think they have received your application. If at all possible, don’t leave a message. Keep calling at different times until someone picks up.

- Interview effectively.
  Career services staff can provide suggestions and strategies to help you interview with confidence and competence.

- Make the decision that is right for you.
  There isn’t one best internship or job opportunity. Career services staff can assist you in weighing all of your options.

Getting Started: Information on Careers related to the Environment and Sustainability

- Environmental Careers Organization
  http://www.eco.org
- Chicagoland Environmental Network (CEN)
  http://www.chicagoenvironment.org
- Environment Illinois
  http://www.environmentillinois.org
- Environmental Expert
  http://www.environmental-expert.com
- Environmental Career Center
  http://environmentalcareer.com
- EnvironBusiness
  http://environbusiness.com
- National Registry of Environmental Professionals
  http://nrep.org
- Cyber-Sierra’s Center for Natural Resources, Forestry & Conservation
  http://www.cyber-sierra.com

- Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative
  http://greencollarchicago.org
- Green Jobs
  http://www.greenjobs.com
- Hydrology Jobs and Research Site
  http://www.gethydrologyjobs.com
- Environmental Career Opportunities
  http://www.ecojobs.com
- Environmental Jobs and Careers
  http://www.ejobs.org
- Sustainable Business
  http://sustainablebusiness.com
- U.S. Green Building Council
  http://www.usgbc.org
- Local Economic and Employment Development
  http://www.leedcouncil.org

Internship and Career Resources