

Path to Purpose: A Div by Div Guide



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SPARC created this guide to suggest action steps, provide resources, and nurture connections to help you develop a sense of purpose along your academic and life path. We offer these tools to help you navigate your unique journey, optimize the resources available [to develop essential workplace skills](#) and provide direction as you launch toward your life after Hampshire, wherever that takes you. **Remember:** You can always [schedule an appointment with a SPARC career counselor](#) to discuss how to best **apply this roadmap to your individual path.**

For each of the **suggested** actions outlined below, we've curated some desired outcomes.

Div I

- Explore work-study opportunities [on-campus](#) and [off campus](#)
 - Gain real world experience to add to your resume
 - Cultivate teamwork, accountability, and communication skills

- Attend Hampfest and [join student clubs](#) that align with your interests
 - Develop community, as well as teamwork and leadership skills

- Write a draft [resume](#) and review it with a SPARC Peer Ambassador or SPARC Career Counselor
 - Learn to effectively communicate your experience
 - Be ready to customize your resume to best reflect your suitability for specific jobs
 - Reflect on additional experiences you may want to pursue

- [Activate/Login in to your Handshake account](#) to explore job/internship opportunities and make appointments with SPARC advisers.
 - Explore potential paths and outcomes for your desired field of study
 - Learn to strategically navigate this tool to meet your goals and match your interests
 - TIP:** Customize your profile (interests, skills, resume) to best represent your unique skill set and receive info about relevant opportunities.

- Engage with your [Learning Collaborative \(LC\)](#), both in class and at meetings.
 - Develop your critical thinking and collaborative skills
 - Engage with a diverse team to find solutions to a global problem
 - Organize a sponsored LC event, apply for LC grant funding, or consider becoming a student coordinator of an LC next year to develop leadership skills

- Attend Community Days of Learning
 - Learn about justice, equity, and anti-racism initiatives both on campus and in the community.
 - Practice self-advocacy and learn to become an effective ally for others

- Attend a Div I [Design Your Life](#) workshop to reflect on your skills, values, and the “sparks” in your life that energize you
 - Consider how your inner compass can align with your work in the world

- Read about jobs that you might enjoy on [O*Net](#). In particular, explore the “Interest Profiler” and “My Next Move” under the “I want to be a” section
 - Assess where your skills/strengths, values and interests align with possible careers
 - Identify areas for personal/professional growth, development, and skill building
 - Consider educational, work and internship opportunities to fulfill future job requirements

- Set up an [informational meeting](#) with two people doing work you think would be fun
 - Get an insider’s perspective on skills needed in that field
 - Solicit advice for classes, summer work, and more that will help inform your explorations
 - Start to build your professional network

- Sign up for the [SPARC Internship Seekers listserv](#) for information about summer, part time and intern opportunities
 - Learn about opportunities that spark your interest
 - TIP:** Apply now or save those you may want to pursue later; they usually repeat yearly!

- Plan to pursue your passions this summer ([pursue an internship, job](#), volunteer, [independent research](#), community organizing, coursework, or whatever is right for you)
 - Gain valuable work and life experience in a field of interest; develop relevant skills
 - Discern which professional path is really a good match for your interests, skills, preferred work style and workplace culture.

Div II - First Year

- Write/update your resume and have it reviewed by a career counselor at SPARC
 - Learn to effectively communicate your unique Hampshire education and experience

- Attend a Div II Design Your Internship Workshop
 - Reflect on your own strengths and areas for development
 - Develop ideas for life after college and flesh out a plan to get there
 - Identify areas for continual growth while pursuing and applying feedback

- Join the Hampshire Network and talk with two alums doing work you’re interested in

- Practice generating appropriate questions to gain the information you need
- Keep building your network

- Create a LinkedIn Profile (for Internship/Job Search)
 - Connect with Alums and follow people in your field of interest
 - Expand your professional contacts

- Attend a Five College, Handshake or other career fair, in-person or virtual
 - Talk with employers about opportunities, work culture and more
 - Learn to successfully navigate the hiring process, in person and virtually

- Talk with your faculty about career paths and internships in their field
 - Communicate interest/curiosity
 - Seek out professional development opportunities

- Attend an Alum Advisory Council event or other alum presentation/workshop
 - Identify areas for continual personal growth and professional development

- Use Handshake to find internships and attend employer presentations
 - Build intentional relationships with people who can open doors for you by participating in events with potential employers (virtual job fairs, info sessions, etc.)

- Pursue an academic year or summer internship, job, or volunteer experience in an area of interest to you
 - Gain skills, knowledge, and connections

- Visit Global Education Office to explore international study and/or internship options
 - Enhance your understanding of people from different cultural groups
 - Foster personal growth and flexibility

- Participate in a story circle hosted by Justice, Equity, and Anti-Racism
 - Build affinity among peers
 - Learn to solicit and use feedback from multiple cultural perspectives
 - Strengthen your ability to make inclusive and equity-minded decisions

Div II - Second Year

- Join a professional organization related to your interests and/ or social identity
 - Follow industry trends
 - Participate in further education, training, or other events to support your career

- Consider a Div III that connects/ puts you in contact with organizations/people/alumni working in your field of interest
 - Establish or expand relationships with people who can help you professionally

- Pursue a summer internship or work related to your future goals, even if tentative
 - Gain real world experience, acquire skills, and make connections in your field

- Demonstrate dependability and professionalism
- Discuss Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant opportunities with your faculty
- Practice self advocacy
- Assume responsibilities to help you learn at a deeper level and progress professionally

If you're considering graduate or professional school:

- Attend SPARC's *Applying to Grad & Professional School* Workshop
- Understand the application processes and timelines
- Make a plan to apply to grad school as a Div III or after you graduate
- Research programs and develop an action plan to make sure you're on track
- Understand their admission requirements; take appropriate classes and exams

Div III

- Attend a Div III Design Your Life after Hampshire workshop
- Seek and leverage diverse resources and feedback to inform your direction
- Design a Div III in an area that excites you
- Develop advanced skills and connect with those working in your field of interest
- Attend job, internship, and grad school fairs at the 5 Colleges and virtually
- Establish relationships with people who can help you professionally
- Develop a professional portfolio or your LinkedIn
- Showcase your work, projects, and your "brand" in alignment with your personal values
- Update/refine your resume and professional portfolio
- Showcase various skills that correspond to specific job opportunities
- Apply to grad school or get yourself ready to apply after graduation
- Join SPARCJobseekers listserv to learn about jobs received via email, some from alums
- Ask alums and others in your area of interest for job search advice (esp. *who are willing to "Open Doors at Workplace"* on the [Hampshire Network](#))
- Reflect on your Hampshire experiences and translate your acquired skills into job application materials (resume and cover letters)
- Schedule a [mock Interview](#) with a SPARC counselor
- Practice communicating your unique Hampshire education to future employers
- Demonstrate verbal and non-verbal/body language, abilities
- Ask faculty and/or other supervisors to write letters of recommendation or serve as a reference