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# What Can I Do with a Major in African and Black Diaspora

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## How to use this guide

DePaul's [Career Roadmap](#) was designed to help students and alumni navigate the career development process by describing the Career Center's services and resources as they relate to four steps: Know Yourself, Explore and Choose Options, Gain Knowledge and Experience, and Putting it all Together. This major guide uses the same four steps to help you explore and consider the possibility of pursuing a degree in African and Black Diaspora:

- Step 1** *Know Yourself*: Helps you explore whether this field suits your interests, skills, and values.
- Step 2** *Explore and Choose Options*: Provides you with information about the major and occupations related to it.
- Step 3** *Gain Knowledge and Experience*: Teaches you how to gain relevant knowledge and experience for your occupational interest.
- Step 4** *Putting It All Together*: Helps you embark on your job search process.

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## Step 1: Know Yourself

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Think about what has attracted you to African and Black Diaspora and why it might be the right major for you. Take some time to consider your interests, skills, and values, and compare them with the information below. Keep in mind that you may not identify with everything noted below, but be conscious of whether the listed interests, skills, and values complement or run contrary to how you identify.

### Interests, Skills and Values:

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People who major in African and Black Diaspora often have:

Interests	Skills	Values
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creative Writing</li><li>• Sharing thoughts and ideas</li><li>• Leading / Educating others</li><li>• Human Services</li><li>• Solving problems through discussion</li><li>• Religion/ spirituality</li><li>• Social Science</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Innovation</li><li>• Critical Thinking</li><li>• Communicative (verbal/listening)</li><li>• Research</li><li>• Analytical</li><li>• Leadership</li><li>• Teaching</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diversity</li><li>• Originality</li><li>• Imaginative</li><li>• Problem solving</li><li>• Interpersonal Relationships</li><li>• Service to others</li><li>• Advocacy</li><li>• Sense of Community</li><li>• Abstract mental challenges</li></ul>

If what is listed above matches, or is related in a way to your own interests, skills and values, a degree in African and Black Diaspora may be for you. Continue to explore this resource to learn more.

### Another Look at Interests:

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#### John Holland's Occupational Themes

Learning about your interests will help you identify opportunities to pursue and the topics you are most naturally drawn to. John Holland developed a theory of occupational interests that described six major interest areas (learn about all six interest areas [here](#)). Of those six interest areas, African and Black Diaspora students often identify with interests in the following categories:

- **Artistic** value creativity, independence, originality, and unconventional ideas: [http://careercenter.depaul.edu/documents/hexagon\\_artistic.pdf](http://careercenter.depaul.edu/documents/hexagon_artistic.pdf)
- **Investigative** enjoy gathering information, uncovering new facts or theories, and analyzing and interpreting data: [http://careercenter.depaul.edu/documents/hexagon\\_investigative.pdf](http://careercenter.depaul.edu/documents/hexagon_investigative.pdf)
- **Social** value working with other people to enlighten, cure, or instruct them on areas of human growth and development: [http://careercenter.depaul.edu/documents/hexagon\\_social.pdf](http://careercenter.depaul.edu/documents/hexagon_social.pdf)

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***Learn more about “Step 1: Knowing Yourself”...Check out these Career Center Workshops***

- Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)
- Skills and Accomplishments
- Strong Interest Explorer
- Work Values

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## **Step 2: Explore and Choose Options**

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*Whether you have already chosen African and Black Diaspora as a major or are still considering it among other possibilities, it is important to explore the career and academic options this major will open up for you.*

### **Concentrations:**

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*Africa, Black America, and Afro-Caribbean and Latin America are the 3 concentrations offered by DePaul’s department of African and Black Diaspora. Although each concentration focuses on a different geographical area, students working toward a major in African and Black Diaspora will experience a rich curriculum tracing the movement of African people and culture throughout the world.*

Per the African and Black Diaspora Department’s webs page, “DePaul’s African and Black Diaspora program explores the topics of power, history, identity, gender and race in relation to contemporary understandings of Africa and the movement of its people throughout the world. You will study African, Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and American regions in order to discover the relationships and dynamics between their peoples, religions and philosophies.”

### **Learn more:**

DePaul: <http://las.depaul.edu/abds/Program/Courses/index.asp>

African and Black Diaspora Department’s webs page:

[http://www.depaul.edu/academics/undergraduate/majors/abdiaspora\\_studies.asp](http://www.depaul.edu/academics/undergraduate/majors/abdiaspora_studies.asp)

### **Curriculum:**

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Please follow this link to review the curriculum for a degree in African and Black Diaspora. Also, note the classes you will need to take.

Link to your major’s curriculum

Learn more about these classes:

<http://sr.depaul.edu/catalog/catalogfiles/Current/Undergraduate%20Course%20Descriptions/pg3.html>

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## Occupations:

The following list, organized by type/area of employment, employers and strategies offers a *sampling* of career paths that might appeal to students with a major in African and Black Diaspora Studies. It is not meant to be all inclusive or limiting, but rather is **intended to provide you with a starting point for considering the possibilities.**

EDUCATION	
FUNCTION	-Teaching -Research -Student Affairs -Multicultural Programming -Administration
EMPLOYER	-Universities and colleges -Elementary and High School -Campus cultural centers -Support programs (e.g. <i>Educational Advancement Program, Upward Bound School and community libraries</i> ) -Community organization
STRATEGIES	-Earn a Ph.D. to teach and research at four-year institutions. -Get involved in leadership roles on campus. -Join related professional associations as a student member. -Volunteer to assist a professor with research or take an independent study class. -Volunteer or secure an internship in a school or other education-related setting.
HUMAN SERVICES	
FUNCTION	-Counseling -Psychotherapy -Mental Health Services -Case Management -Community Relations -Fundraising/Development -Administration
EMPLOYER	-Mental health institutions -Hospitals and clinics -Correctional institutions -Residential treatment facilities -Private and group practice -Federal, state, or local government, including: <i>Department of Human Services</i> -Veterans Administration -Organizations that aid minorities, immigrants, and refugees or focus on cultural issues -Youth organizations and camps including YMCA, Boys and Girls Club -Nonprofit and social services organizations including: <i>United Way, Red Cross, Goodwill Industries, Salvation Army, etc.</i>
STRATEGIES	-Supplement curriculum with courses in psychology, social work, or child and family studies. -Obtain a graduate degree in psychology, counseling, or social work for increased counseling opportunities or advancement into administrative work. -Gain essential practical experience through part-time or summer jobs and internships. -Volunteer with organizations that assist people of diverse backgrounds, such as ones providing services to refugees and immigrants. -Acquire knowledge of government and community resources available for those

	in need.
<b>ADVOCACY</b>	
<b>FUNCTION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Domestic and International Advocacy</li> <li>-Humanitarian Services</li> <li>-Development: <i>Economic, Community, Housing, Disaster/Disease Relief</i></li> <li>-HIV/AIDS Advocacy</li> <li>-Policy Development</li> <li>-Program Administration</li> <li>-Education</li> <li>-Volunteer Coordination</li> <li>-Fundraising/Development</li> <li>-Grant Writing</li> </ul>
<b>EMPLOYER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Community action agencies</li> <li>-Private voluntary organizations</li> <li>-Faith based organizations (FBO's) and churches</li> <li>-International aid and relief organizations</li> <li>-NGO's (Non-governmental Organizations): <i>e.g. Action Aid, Oxfam, International Red Cross</i></li> <li>-Federal government agencies with an international focus</li> <li>-State and local government agencies</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Volunteer at relevant local social service agencies to gain experience and demonstrate interest.</li> <li>-Participate in campus "alternative break" trips or church-led mission trips to places such as the Caribbean, South America, or Africa.</li> <li>-Develop excellent research, writing, communication, and organizational skills. ---</li> <li>-Learn how to motivate individuals and groups.</li> <li>-Earn leadership roles in campus organizations, e.g. the NAACP.</li> <li>-Learn a language spoken in Africa, e.g. Swahili or Zulu. Plan to study abroad or volunteer in Africa.</li> <li>-Seek cultural experiences on campus and get involved with the international student population.</li> <li>-Plan to move to larger communities for more opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>BUSINESS &amp; INDUSTRY</b>	
<b>FUNCTION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Training and Development</li> <li>-Human Resources</li> <li>-Equity and Diversity</li> <li>-Functions</li> <li>-Management</li> <li>-Sales</li> <li>-Marketing</li> <li>-Advertising</li> <li>-Public Relations</li> <li>-Consulting</li> </ul>
<b>EMPLOYER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Public and private corporations in various industries including: <i>Banks and financial institutions, Insurance companies, Retail stores, Hotels and restaurants, Consumer goods manufacturers, Businesses targeting a Black clientele</i></li> <li>-Staffing agencies</li> <li>-Consulting firms</li> <li>-Marketing companies</li> <li>-Public relations agencies</li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Double major or minor in business.</li> <li>-Gain business experience through internships or part-time and summer jobs.</li> <li>-Become current with business and industry literature and news.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Join campus organizations or professional societies and seek leadership roles.</li> <li>-Understand the top skills employers desire and be prepared to demonstrate them, such as communication (oral and written), computer, interpersonal, leadership, and teamwork.</li> <li>-Conduct informational interviews with professionals to learn more about career fields.</li> <li>-When job searching, seek employers interested in hiring "any major."</li> <li>-Learn how to sell your Africana Studies major to companies that value cultural diversity.</li> <li>-Be willing to start in a management-trainee program or other entry-level positions.</li> <li>-Earn an MBA or a graduate degree in another area of interest for more advanced opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNICATION / WRITING</b>	
<b>FUNCTION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Journalism   -Creative Writing   -Freelance Writing   -Copy Writing Editing</li> <li>-Research and Analysis</li> </ul>
<b>EMPLOYER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Newspapers   -Magazines   - Trade, professional, or consumer publications</li> <li>-Broadcast media companies including television and movie industry</li> <li>-Advertising agencies   -Publishing houses   -Large corporations</li> <li>-Publications and Internet sites marketed toward African Americans, <i>e.g. Ebony, Essence</i></li> </ul>
<b>STRATEGIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Pair an interest in Africana Studies with communication skills to write about relevant issues</li> <li>-Obtain a minor in English or journalism or take other writing-focused classes.</li> <li>-Write for campus publications such as college newspapers, magazines, or department/program newsletters.</li> <li>-Volunteer to assist or tutor students in a writing center.</li> <li>-Intern with a publishing house, magazine, or other relevant organizations.</li> <li>-Create a portfolio of writing samples, especially those that have been published.</li> <li>-Seek opportunities for recognition and networking through writing contests and freelance writing submissions.</li> <li>-Become familiar with the proposal and submission process involved in freelance writing.</li> </ul>
<b>LAW &amp; POLITICS</b>	
<b>FUNCTION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Law: Corporate Practice, Public Interest Law, Civil Law</li> <li>-Lobbying   -Government Relations   -Elected or Appointed Leadership</li> <li>-Public Policy   -Research   -Intelligence   -Campaign Management</li> <li>-Special Interest Advocacy   -Program Administration</li> </ul>
<b>EMPLOYER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Law firms   -Corporate legal departments   -Public defenders offices</li> <li>-District attorneys   -Public interest groups, <i>e.g. Southern Poverty Law Center</i></li> <li>-Government agencies, <i>e.g. US African Development Agency</i></li> <li>-Legal aid   -Sole practitioner   -Lobbying groups</li> </ul>

STRATEGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Obtain the J.D. for law positions or an advanced degree in political science, public administration or public policy for government positions.</li> <li>-Supplement curriculum with relevant courses to prepare for law school.</li> <li>-Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations.</li> <li>-Prepare for and take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT).</li> <li>-Participate in activities that develop strong debate and public speaking skills such as mock trial.</li> <li>-Get involved with the pre-law society on campus.</li> <li>-Gain relevant experience through jobs or internships with law firms, government agencies or mediation centers.</li> </ul>
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Learn more: **O\*NET**: Source of detailed descriptions of different occupations including its job responsibilities, educational requirements, typically associated interests and values, job outlook and more.

<http://www.onetonline.org/find/result?s=black+america+studies>

<http://www.onetonline.org/find/quick?s=African+Studies>

<http://www.onetonline.org/find/result?s=afro-caribbean+and+latin+american+studies>

#### Occupational Outlook Handbook

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos056.htm>

### ***Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK):***

ASK is a great way to begin building your network by connecting with mentors. While there may not be an available listing of DePaul alumni who have earned a degree in African and Black Diaspora, there are a number of alumni who have careers that reflect many of the same interests, values, and skills as students majoring in African and Black Diaspora. Below is a *sample* of job titles reported by alumni with interests, skills, and values similar to students seeking a degree in African and Black Diaspora:

Career Consultant/Counselor  
Associate/Assistant Director  
Associate Customer Research Manager  
Assistant Village Manager  
Attorney  
Educator/Teacher

Principal  
Child and Adolescent Therapist  
Deputy Public Defender  
Habilitation Supervisor  
Parent Advocate

Professor  
Psychologist  
Psychotherapist  
Recruiter  
Research Assistant

Learn more on how to connect with alumni: <http://ask.depaul.edu/>

### ***Online Resources:***

Research more about African and Black Diaspora:

- **NAACP:** <http://www.naacp.org/content/main/>
- **Africa: south of the Sahara:** <http://library.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/african-diaspora/african-diaspora-associations-organizations.html>
- **BlackPast.org Remembered & Reclaimed:** <http://www.blackpast.org/?q=bibliography-subject/african-diaspora-0>
- **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign:** <http://www.library.illinois.edu/afx/diaspora.htm>

**Learn more about “Step 2: Explore and Choose Options”...Check out these Career Center Workshops**

- LinkedIn & Other Social Media
- Networking Skills

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### **Step 3: Gain Knowledge and Experience**

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*Complementing your coursework in African and Black Diaspora with internship, volunteer, work, and organization experiences is one of the smartest moves you can make in relation to your career development. By doing so, you will have the opportunity to apply and build upon the knowledge you are gaining in the classroom, while also developing content for your resume in preparation for future opportunities.*

#### **Internships:**

Here is a **sample** list of internships you might consider while pursuing a degree in African and Black Diaspora. Please note, any mentioned internship below is not restricted to its respective concentration.

Cabrini Green Legal Aid	Chicago Council on Global Affairs	Chicago History Museum
Chicago City Government	Children’s Memorial Hospital	Global Alliance for Africa
The Field Museum	Art Institute of Chicago	DuSable Museum of African American History

Search and apply for internships listed by employers specifically seeking DePaul candidates at: <http://depaul.experience.com>

#### **Find Internships:**

Visit these sites to search and apply for more internships:

##### **DePaul Resources:**

- Career Center’s DePaul.Experience website: <http://depaul.experience.com>

##### **African and Black Diaspora Specific Resources:**

- Rutgers Career Services: [http://careerservices.rutgers.edu/africana\\_studies.shtml](http://careerservices.rutgers.edu/africana_studies.shtml)
- Human Services Career Network: <http://www.hscareers.com>

##### **Additional Resources:**

- TopUSAJobs.com: <http://www.topusajobs.com>
- Indeed.com: <http://www.indeed.com>
- HigherEdJobs.com: <http://www.higheredjobs.com>
- Collegegrad.com: <http://www.collegegrad.com>
- CollegeRecruiter.com: <http://www.collegerecruiter.com>
- Careeronestop.org: <http://www.careeronestop.org>
- Careerbuilder.com: <http://careerbuilder.com>

## ***Student Organizations and Professional Organizations:***

To gain more knowledge and experience, as well as to network and build your resume, consider joining student and professional organizations related to African and Black Diaspora.

<b>Professional Organizations</b>	<b>Student Organizations at DePaul</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.africanstudies.org/">African Studies Association</a> http://www.africanstudies.org/</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.asalh.org/">Association for the Study of African American Life &amp; History</a> http://www.asalh.org/</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.naaas.org/">National Association of African-American Studies</a> http://www.naaas.org/</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.ethnicstudies.org/">National Association for Ethnic Studies</a> http://www.ethnicstudies.org/</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.aahgs.org/">Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society</a> http://www.aahgs.org/</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.eblackstudies.org/organizations.html">eBlack Studies - list of professional organizations</a> http://www.eblackstudies.org/organizations.html</li> </ul>	<p><b>African and Caribbean Student Association (ACSA)</b></p> <p><b>Caribbean African Student Association (CASA)</b></p> <p><b>Black Student Union (BSU)</b></p> <p><b>Black Law Students Association (BLSA)</b></p> <p><i>More information about these organizations can be found on Demon Direct:</i> <a href="https://wa.is.depaul.edu/DemonDirect/demondirect.aspx">https://wa.is.depaul.edu/DemonDirect/demondirect.aspx</a></p>

## ***Research and Guide Books:***

Find these and more African and Black Diaspora research and guide books at DePaul's libraries.

- Great jobs for liberal arts majors by Blythe Camenson
- *The college majors handbook : the actual jobs, earnings, and trends for graduates of 60 college majors* by Neeta, Fogg
- *The African studies companion : a resource guide & directory* by Hans M. Zell

Learn more about the library and how to borrow these books: <http://library.depaul.edu/>

## ***Graduate and Doctoral Programs:***

Learn more about graduate and doctoral African and Black Diaspora programs.

List possible programs to explore:

<http://www.gradschools.com/search-programs/african-studies>

U.S. News and World Report Graduate Schools Rankings:

<http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools>

**Learn more about “Step 3: Gain Knowledge and Experience”...Check out these Career Center Workshops**

- How to Prepare for Graduate School
- How to Work a Job & Internship Fair
- University Internship Program (UIP) Orientation
- Cooperative Education (Co-Op) Orientation
- iPrep: Find Your Dream Internship
- Navigating Student Employment

**Step 4: Putting it all Together**

*The job search process can be challenging, but with the right tools, guidance, and persistence, success can be yours. Below are a number of resources that you are invited to take advantage of as a DePaul student and/or alumni.*

**Career Advisors for Liberal Arts and Sciences:**

If you have not already done so, set an appointment with a Career Advisor to discuss your post-graduation goals and strategies for achieving them. To set an appointment with your advisor, please call the Lincoln Park Campus at 773-325-7431.

**Attend Workshops:**

The Career Center's career development workshops are designed to help you build and strengthen your career-related skills so you can make well-informed decisions and prepare for your job or internship search.

The Career Center offers free workshops on over 25 topics throughout the year, including resume writing, interviewing skills, effective self-marketing techniques, networking, managing your career path and many more. Workshops facilitators have in-depth knowledge in the topics covered and allow you the opportunity to ask questions throughout each session.

Pre-register for all workshops online through DePaul.Experience.

Learn more: <http://careercenter.depaul.edu/events/default.aspx>

**Prepare your Resume:**

Depending on the internship or job you are applying to, consider including the following types of information on your resume:

Entry Level Professionals	Experienced Professionals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education/ degree earned[List appropriate entry-level resume sections]</li> <li>• Study Abroad Experience</li> <li>• Relevant Coursework</li> <li>• Relevant Experience from jobs and internships</li> <li>• Organizations &amp; Leadership</li> <li>• Skills (Language / Technical)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Career Highlight</li> <li>• Relevant Experience</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Publications</li> <li>• Professional Affiliation</li> <li>• Skills (Language / Technical)</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>

To view resume samples and an online resume tutorial, visit:

<http://careercenter.depaul.edu/resumes/default.aspx>

Or meet with a Peer Career Advisor to plan, develop and/or critique your resume. Peer Career Advising is a good place for students and alumni to begin the process of career planning. The Peer Career Advisors are undergraduate and graduate students who have been carefully selected and trained by the Career Center to work with students and alumni in an advisory capacity.

### ***Prepare for Interviews:***

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To prepare for an interview for an internship or job, the Career Center offers:

- **Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) Practice Interviews** – Sign up in DePaul.Experience for a practice interview with DePaul alum. This real interview scenario will allow you to gain feedback from your practice interviewer on your interviewing strengths and areas for improvement.
- **Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) Mentors** – ASK mentors are willing to meet with you individually to help you with your interviewing skills. ASK mentors are a good option to consider as they have valuable industry-specific interviewing tips.
- **Peer Career Advisors** – Meet with a Peer Career Advisor on a walk-in basis to go over the interviewing process, as well as running through a mock interview. Peer Career Advisors are a good option to consider if you need quick interviewing help.
- **Career Advisors** – Set up an appointment with your Career Advisor to go over the interviewing process, as well as running through a more advanced mock interview. Career Advisors are a good option to consider if you are seeking more job specific interviewing tips.
- **Career Center Workshops** – Register for such interviewing workshops as “Interviewing Skills” or “Advanced Interviewing Skills” in DePaul.Experience.
- **For other interviewing resources** – Please visit:  
<http://careercenter.depaul.edu/resumes/interviewprep.aspx>

### ***Salary Resources:***

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- **Salary.com:** <http://www.salary.com>
- **Wage web:** <http://www.wageweb.com>
- **Indeed.com’s Salary Search:** <http://www.indeed.com/salary>
- **HigherEdJobs.com’s Salary Surveys for Higher Education:** <http://www.higheredjobs.com/salary/>
- **Monster.com’s Salary and Benefits Information:** <http://career-advice.monster.com/salary-benefits/home.aspx>
- **Vault.com’s Salaries and Compensation:** <http://www.vault.com/salaries.jsp>
- **Collegegrad.com’s Salary Information:** <http://www.collegegrad.com/salaries/index.shtml>
- **Careeronestop.org’s Salary Information:**  
<http://www.careeronestop.org/SalariesBenefits/SalariesBenefits.aspx>

#### ***Learn more about “Step 4: Putting it all Together”...Check out these Career Center Workshops***

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- How to Build a Portfolio
- Interviewing Skills
- Job Search Strategies in a Challenging Job Market
- Negotiation Skills