

Your Career Roadmap

Exploring Business and Economics

at Allegheny College



ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

BRUCE R. THOMPSON
CENTER FOR BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

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What you should know

The Roadmap is a discussion guide for students with interests in the broad fields of business and economics.

The real world changes constantly, and new opportunities open up every day. We created this guide to help students to start the conversation about their future with their family, Allegheny faculty, staff and alumni along with all of the people they will encounter throughout their college journey.

Share this information, ask questions, and get the most benefit from your time here at Allegheny.

This document has been prepared by the Center for Business and Economics using reference content from a variety of sources. If you are aware of any updates or edits, please notify CBE Program Coordinator, Beth Ryan, bryan@allegheny.edu.

Assess Your Skills and Interests



By assessing who you are as a person, it will be easier to:

- Pursue careers and organizations that are a good match for you.
- Express why you are a good fit for a particular job and organization.
- Select the most productive networking and interviewing opportunities.
- Select clubs and activities that best match your skills and interests.
- Identify gaps in your skills and knowledge and work to fill them.

Today's job market is more dynamic than ever. Companies are in a constant state of change. There are entire industries that didn't exist when your parents were in high school.

The perfect job for you may not have been created yet. You might even be the person who creates it. In a climate like this, you need to know yourself and what you stand for. That's why this is the perfect time to assess your personality, desires and goals, because that's the stuff that will show you the way to your future.

Make an appointment with the Center for Career and Professional Development (CCPD). Talk to a member of the Career team and your academic advisor about the types of careers you can pursue with your economics or business degree.

Set Your Goals High

Start Planning for Your Life after Allegheny (It'll be here before you know it!)

- Participate in CBE Activities Every Semester
- Set an appointment with the Center for Career and Professional Development (CCPD)
- Build a Big Network of Allegheny Alumni
- Create your Profile on Handshake, Gator2Gator and LinkedIn
- Complete a Community Service Project
- Take a Leadership role in a club or organization
- Apply to become a CBE Fellow
- Do Summer Research with Faculty
- Study Away
- Secure an Internship

Map Out Your Route & Set Goals for Your Trip

Start Early – during your first year



Grow Toward Your Interests

Explore what excites you—job functions, organizations, or graduate programs. Seek advice from people you trust—advisors, professors, the Center for Career and Professional Development staff, mentors, or family. Stay open to discovering what you truly enjoy and where you will thrive. Start a spreadsheet to track:

- Courses
- Co-curricular activities
- Internships
- Post-grad plans and ideas
- Contact names and networking leads

Set SMART Goals

Successful students write down their goals. Use the SMART framework to guide you (see example below):

- **Specific:** What exactly do you want to accomplish? (Who, What, Where, When, Why)
- **Measurable:** How will you track your progress or success?
- **Achievable:** Is it realistic given your resources and timeline?
- **Relevant:** Does this align with your values, interests, or future goals?
- **Time-Bound:** When will you achieve it? Set a clear deadline.

SMART Step	Your Goal Description	Goal Met?
Specific	<i>I want to secure a summer internship in financial analysis or economic research to build practical skills and strengthen my resume.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Measurable	<i>I will apply to at least 6 internship programs and reach out to 3 alumni working in finance or economics-related roles.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Achievable	<i>I will update my resume, schedule a mock interview at the Center for Career and Professional Development (CCPD) and attend the CBE networking event during Blue and Gold Weekend..</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Relevant	<i>This experience supports my goal of working in economic consulting or financial strategy after graduation.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Time-Bound	<i>I will complete applications by January 30 and conduct alumni outreach by February 15.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Get to Know Your Career Guides



You will have many opportunities to invent and reinvent yourself in your professional career. How you approach your collegiate years (undergrad, graduate school, and beyond), will set the foundation for how you reach your goals.

The Power of Mentors

Mentors come in many forms—and you likely already have a few. Parents, older siblings, friends, and trusted professors often offer encouragement, perspective, and honest advice when you need it most. Off-campus mentors like alumni, supervisors, or professionals in your field can provide valuable insight into career paths, internships, and life after graduation.

Business and Economics Faculty

Your professors do more than teach classes, they can advise you on your journey in unique ways because they have already experienced the same journey that you are on today. You will have a specific faculty advisor, take the time to visit your advisor during office hours on a regular basis.

Center for Business and Economics (CBE)

The CBE is the Department's central hub for co-curricular programming designed to enhance the curriculum with activities to engage students in the areas of professional development, money, finance, entrepreneurship, mentorship, networking and discovery. Led by two Co-Directors, the CBE organizes events and provides guidance for targeted career choices.

Center for Career and Professional Development (CCPD)

The CCPD team is committed to facilitating student success by connecting students and alumni with resources that support career and life planning. Career Educators network with various partners, both on and off campus, to develop internships, job shadowing opportunities, educational programs, and employment leads to help students attain their personal and professional goals.

Allegheny Alumni

Engage with alumni locally and globally through Gator2Gator! As a student, you have access to a powerful online and in-person network of diverse Allegheny community members that can help you build connections, find your next job, and share their expertise.

Office Hours: What are they?

Students value office hours because they make it possible to have one-on-one interactions with faculty that are not always feasible in a classroom. Office Hours are best used as a time to address specific student needs, clarify class material, seek advice on how to study more effectively, and to get insights about other courses and opportunities.

Plan Your Coursework



If you want to accomplish your goals, you’ve got to work efficiently.

Maximizing your college experience by aligning your academics with your career and life goals is an investment in yourself—and one you truly deserve to make.

Planning your classes

Start by looking over the Course Catalogue so that you’re absolutely clear on the requirements of your degree program including prerequisites. Once you do that, you can move ahead with planning your semester and long-term schedules with your advisor.

Use a Scheduling Tool

By documenting all of your courses and activities you will save time throughout your college career when scheduling classes and keeping your resume and professional profiles up to date. Ask your advisor to share a link to our convenient spreadsheet.

The Allegheny Advantage – Your Senior Project or “Comp”

At Allegheny College, the Senior Project is a rigorous, culminating academic experience that challenges students to complete an independent research project under faculty mentorship. More than a final assignment, it’s a transformative process that deepens your understanding of complex ideas, sharpens your communication skills, and prepares you for professional success.

Senior Project Preparation in Business and Economics

To prepare, first year students write, speak and research in their first-year seminars. During their sophomore and junior years, they practice writing, speaking, and economic analysis.

All majors take a Seminar during the first semester of their senior year. In this seminar, students develop a Senior Project topic, conduct preliminary research, and write a preliminary draft of a chapter. During the second semester of their senior year, students conduct further research, complete the written project, and defend it.

Senior Projects

Students find their Senior Projects open many doors, including opportunities for graduate school and employment.

It is not too soon to talk with your professors about their specialties and areas of interest with respect to business and economics and for you to think about potential Senior Project topics.

Co-Curricular Activities at the Bruce R. Thompson Center for Business and Economics



Professional Development

CBE Fellows - a select group of motivated students that function as a leadership team to support CBE programming and act as student ambassadors.

IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) - Students earn IRS certifications to prepare tax returns for low income, elderly and special needs taxpayers.

The Lunchtime Learning Lecture Series – Guest speakers offer valuable information on topics related to internships and careers.

Finance, Entrepreneurship

The Allegheny College Student Managed Investment Fund - provides students with experience investing in the stock market under the guidance of faculty and an advisory board.

The Zingale Big Idea Competition - A student-focused business pitch presentation competition. This contest emulates the experiences seen on the popular CNBC broadcast, Shark Tank, but with a heart.

Mentorship, Networking

The Board of Visitors Annual Event -The CBE Board of Visitors is an advisory board made up of distinguished alumni and business leaders that convenes annually to engage with students in a variety of activities to answer questions and offer a “real world” perspective.

The Executive in Residence program - This event is designed to connect Allegheny students and faculty with prominent business executives who spend several days on Allegheny campus speaking about their life experiences in business, paths to success, and lessons learned.

Distinguished Lecture/Executive Roundtable - The department hosts an annual event to address contemporary issues of regional, national, and global interest.

Omicron Delta Epsilon Student Honor Society - One of the world's largest academic honor societies recognizing scholastic attainment and honors outstanding achievements in the field of economics.

Women in Business and Economics (WIBE) - Students in the Women in Business and Economics Club support, mentor, and promote women in the fields of Business and Economics.

Center for Career and Professional Development



At Allegheny College, the Center for Career and Professional Development (CCPD) helps students prepare for meaningful lives after college. We connect students with career coaches, alumni, employers, and faculty to support exploration, skill development, and real-world experience. Whether you're just starting to think about your future or actively planning your next steps, we're here to guide you.

Visit us in Pelletier Library

814-332-2381

career@allegheny.edu

allegheny.edu/career-and-professional-development

Visit the [Career Services Website](#) for these essential career planning tools

Handshake

Search and apply for internships and jobs, explore employers, and RSVP for events. Use the “AC Connection” filter to find opportunities supported by Allegheny alumni.

Gator2Gator

Connect with alumni and professionals across industries and locations. Gator2Gator is your gateway to building relationships and discovering new career paths.

Big Interview

Practice your interview skills with an interactive, self-paced platform featuring AI-powered feedback, sample questions, and industry-specific practice sets.

GoinGlobal

Explore careers around the world. GoinGlobal offers guidance on work visas, job markets, resume tips, and more for international opportunities.

My Next Move

Discover careers that match your interests using this interactive tool. Learn about job tasks, required skills, salary ranges, and how to get started.

What Can I Do With This Major?

Link your academic interests to career options. This resource highlights employers, career areas, and strategies tailored to a wide range of majors.

Internships



One of the most valuable activities you can complete is an internship.

An internship is your chance to gain valuable practical experience that you can discuss in a job interview. It gives you a chance to work on REAL projects that impact the success of an organization. They are invaluable. And for many, you can obtain academic credit.

Credit-Bearing Internships

You can choose to earn credit for your internship if you are a sophomore, junior, or senior and have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0, and an Economics or Business grade point average of at least 2.5. The internship may be paid or unpaid, may be completed in the fall, spring, or summer, and may be for 1, 2, or 4 credits. All credit-bearing internships are for credit/no credit. *To learn more and obtain an application form, see Beth Ryan, Q224.*

On-campus Recruiting & Career Fairs

The Center for Career and Professional Development (CCPD) maintains an on-campus recruiting program to connect students to internships and post graduate jobs. CCPD hosts Career Fairs both on and off campus - these events are valuable even if you are not quite ready to seek a job. You can meet organizational representatives to add to your network for a later time. Visit

allegheny.edu/academics/career-and-professional-development

Research and Study Away

Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (URSCA)

URSCA shepherds student research, scholarship, and creative activities, which take on many different forms at Allegheny College. Whether it's fieldwork in Alaska or a community art project, you will put theory into practice under the guidance of faculty and staff mentors through research, conference presentations, co-authored articles, and more.

Visit <https://allegheny.edu/academics/research/>

Allegheny College Community Impact Hub

At Allegheny College, the Community Impact Hub empowers students to make a difference—on campus and in the broader community. By working alongside faculty, staff, and local partners, students apply classroom knowledge to real-world challenges, develop leadership skills, explore career paths, and grow as engaged citizens. Visit <https://alleghenyhub.com>.

Global Education

Allegheny College recognizes the enormous academic, professional, and personal value of studying off-campus, either nationally or internationally. We sponsor short-term, semester, and year-long programs for students of all majors. Students routinely earn credit towards major and minor requirements while away. Visit <https://sites.allegheny.edu/global-education/>

Explore Your Options for Graduate School



If you're considering graduate school after college, start by thinking about your long-term career goals. Do you see yourself working in business, research, government, law, or the nonprofit world? Some careers require advanced degrees—like a Ph.D. for university teaching or an MBA for leadership roles—while others may value experience more.

Once you have a general direction, explore the **type of degree** that fits. MBAs are great for business and leadership; master's degrees in economics or finance are useful for research or policy work; and programs like MPPs or MPAs focus on public service and government. You might even consider dual degrees that blend interests like data science and economics.

Research programs thoroughly. Check out university websites to review course offerings, faculty interests, internships, and capstone projects. Use sites like Peterson's, GradSchools.com, or AACSB directories. Rankings can be a starting point, but always dig deeper to find the right academic and cultural fit.

Pay attention to **admission requirements**. Some programs require tests like the GRE or GMAT, a strong GPA, specific coursework (math, stats, programming), or relevant work experience—especially for MBAs.

Don't go it alone—**connect with alumni and current students**. Use LinkedIn or Gator2Gator to hear firsthand what the experience is like, and whether the program delivered on its promise.

Next, **consider the cost**. Look at tuition, living expenses, and funding options like scholarships, assistantships, or loan forgiveness (especially for public service careers). Use hiring or placement reports to evaluate the return on investment.

Plan ahead—start your research **12–18 months before you apply**. Use your junior year to explore programs and prep for tests. By senior year, be ready to apply, write your statement of purpose, and ask for recommendations. Most deadlines fall between December and February.

Finally, **build your profile**. Take quantitative courses, pursue internships, get involved in research or leadership roles, and practice writing your grad school materials.

Grad school is a big investment of time, money, and energy.

But with thoughtful planning, it can be a powerful next step in your journey.

Where Can a Business or Economics Degree Take You?



Explore the many career possibilities tied to majors in Business and Economics - these versatile degrees prepare you for opportunities across nearly every industry.

Here is a small sample of career areas and employers:

Career Areas	Employers
Data Collection & Analysis	Consulting & Research Firms
Forecasting & Planning	Financial Institutions: Banking, Insurance, Investment
Policy Advising	Corporations: Retail, Healthcare, Manufacturing, Tourism
Economic Development	Government Agencies (local, state, federal)
Consulting	Trade Associations, Labor Unions, NGOs
Sales & Management	Educational Institutions
Education	Tech & Software Companies
Data Analytics (data mining, predictive analysis)	Financial Services & Insurance
Supply Chain Management	Sports, Media & Entertainment
HR & Organizational Management	Retail, Consumer Products, Transportation
IT & Cybersecurity	Nonprofits
Sales & Marketing	Healthcare & Consulting Firms
Business Strategy & Consulting	Public Accounting Firms
Public & Corporate Accounting	Private Companies (all sizes)
Tax & Government Accounting	Government Agencies
Investment Banking	Nonprofits & Social Services
Financial Planning & Real Estate	Financial Institutions: Banks, Investment Firms, Insurance Companies
Risk Management & Insurance	Real Estate Firms, Developers, Appraisers
Budgeting & Audit	Educational & Religious Institutions
Healthcare Management	Private businesses of all types
Portfolio management	Hospitals
Claims analysis	Secondary schools, colleges and universities
Actuarial science	
Hedge fund management	
Teaching and research	

Want to dig deeper? Use the “What Can I Do with this Major?” tool @ allegheny.edu/academics/career-and-professional-development

See where our alumni work on LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/school/allegheny-college](https://www.linkedin.com/school/allegheny-college)

From Internships to Careers: Student Success Stories



Internships are more than a glimpse into the professional world—they're powerful stepping stones to full-time employment. Students gain real-world experience, build meaningful connections, and often turn those opportunities into job offers.

Meet two students who transformed their internships into promising career paths:

Graham Kralic '25 | PNC Financial Services

Graham's internship in Treasury Management at PNC revealed the dynamic world of fintech backed by a reputable institution. **"Helping clients improve cash flow is both rewarding and challenging,"** he says, noting the mentorship across business lines helped him grow professionally. A Pittsburgh native, Graham valued the company's new facilities and hometown ties. While compensation mattered, what sealed the deal was PNC's emphasis on work/life balance, continued education, community service, and a mission that aligns with his personal values. The result: a clear career direction and a return offer he was proud to accept.



Nicholas Tysiachney '25 | Acutec Precision Aerospace

Nicholas found Acutec's open-door culture and executive accessibility compelling. **"Even as an intern, I regularly interacted with C-level leaders and was encouraged to drop by to share ideas,"** he recalls. The company's dedication to continuous improvement stood out—rejecting the status quo and embracing innovation. Acutec's robust education support, including tuition assistance and MBA sponsorships, reinforced his decision to stay. The experience made it clear that Acutec wasn't just a job—it was a place to grow.



Bottom line: When internships provide mentorship, value-driven culture and fair compensation, students thrive—and employers retain top talent.

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