



SCHOLARS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

ACADEMIC TRACK

Session 5: Develop a Career Plan

Charting Your Course to Success

Recap

In the previous session, you explored how to balance academics and extracurricular activities effectively. You reflected on your current study habits, identified areas for improvement, and discussed strategies to integrate extracurricular activities into your schedule. Did you apply any of the techniques discussed, and how did they impact your productivity and engagement?

Technique Applied	Impact on Productivity	Challenges Faced
Example: Time Blocking	Improved focus during study sessions.	Struggled to stick to the schedule.
Example: Pomodoro Technique	Completed tasks faster.	Found it hard to take short breaks.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Session 5, which spans **Week 9 and Week 10** of your mentorship journey. This session focuses on helping you chart a clear and actionable career plan. Career planning bridges



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your current academic and extracurricular efforts with your aspirations for the future. Through self-reflection, exploration of career options, and goal setting, you will gain clarity on the steps needed to achieve your dreams.

Having a career plan is crucial for staying motivated, informed, and aligned with your long-term goals. This session will empower you to make informed decisions and begin preparing for the career you envision.

Understanding the Importance of a Career Plan

Purpose

A career plan is your roadmap to success. It ensures you stay focused, build relevant skills, and achieve your aspirations step by step. Having a career plan provides direction and keeps you focused on your long-term goals. It brings clarity, motivation, and empowers you to make informed decisions about your education and career path.

Benefits

- **Clarity and Focus**

It helps you visualize your goals and align your actions accordingly.

- **Motivation**

Working towards clear objectives keeps you inspired.

- **Informed Decisions**

It provides a framework for selecting courses, extracurriculars, and other opportunities that align with your aspirations.

Self-Assessment



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Guide

To start, reflect on your interests, skills, and values. Understanding yourself is the first step in identifying a fulfilling career path.

Activity

- Identify **3-5 key strengths** you want to develop further during your academic journey.
- Use tools like personality tests (e.g., MBTI, Holland Code) or simply reflect on what excites you, the kind of work environments you thrive in, and your long-term values.

Strength	How It Can Help in Your Career
Example: Communication	Essential for roles in marketing, management, or teaching.
Example: Problem-Solving	Valuable in engineering, IT, or consulting.

Exploring Career Options

Guide

The world is full of possibilities! Research different industries, job roles, and fields that align with your self-assessment results.



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Activity

- Identify **2-3 potential career paths** that resonate with your skills and interests.
- Research job descriptions, required qualifications, and day-to-day responsibilities for these roles.

Career Path	Required Qualifications	Day-to-Day Responsibilities
Example: Data Scientist	Degree in CS, Math, or Stats.	Analyze data, build models, and present insights.
Example: Marketing Manager	Degree in Marketing or Business.	Plan campaigns, manage budgets, and analyze market trends.

Setting Career Goals

Guide

Break your ambitions into short-term and long-term goals, ensuring they are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound).

- **Short-Term Goals**

Examples include completing certifications, excelling in a specific course, or landing an



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internship.

- **Long-Term Goals**

Focus on where you see yourself in 5–10 years and the steps needed to get there.

Activity

Draft **one short-term** and **one long-term** goal related to your chosen career paths.

Goal Type	Example
Short-Term Goal	Complete a Python programming course by the end of the semester.
Long-Term Goal	Secure a data scientist role at a tech company within 5 years.

Identifying Skills and Knowledge Requirements

Guide

Research the skills, qualifications, and experiences needed in your desired field.

Activity



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- List **2-3 hard skills** (e.g., technical skills, certifications) and **2-3 soft skills** (e.g., teamwork, communication) you need to develop.

Developing Career-Related Skills

Guide

Focus on practical steps to gain experience and build a network in your chosen field.

1. Course Selection

Choose courses that align with your career interests. Discuss your plans with your mentor or an academic advisor if needed.

2. Internships and Co-Ops

Gain real-world experience through internships or research projects. Gain valuable hands-on experience and test your skills in a real-world setting through internships or research opportunities.

3. Building a Professional Network

4. Attend networking events, connect with alumni, and leverage LinkedIn to engage with professionals in your desired field.

5. Volunteering

Volunteer opportunities can help you build transferable skills and gain exposure to your field of interest. Volunteering is a great way to build skills, gain experience, and expand your network.

6. Projects and Portfolios

Showcase your abilities through relevant projects and maintain a portfolio. Work on relevant projects and maintain a portfolio showcasing your work and achievements.

Activity:



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- Research **2-3 internship or volunteer opportunities** that align with your career goals. Begin preparing applications for these opportunities if deadlines are approaching.
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Continuous Learning and Adaptability

Guide

The journey doesn't stop with a career plan. Be prepared to adapt, learn, and grow continuously.

- **Lifelong Learning**

Stay updated on industry trends and advancements. The world of work is constantly evolving. Emphasize the importance of lifelong learning and staying updated with industry trends.

- **Adaptability**

Embrace change and remain open to new opportunities. Be adaptable and open to new opportunities and challenges.

Aspect	How to Stay Ahead
Lifelong Learning	Stay updated on industry trends and advancements.
Adaptability	Embrace change and remain open to new opportunities.



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Activity for Next Session

To prepare for Session 6: **Leadership Development and Personal Growth**, reflect on areas where you'd like to grow personally and professionally. Consider:

- Skills you'd like to develop (e.g., public speaking, teamwork).
- Volunteer or leadership development programs available at your university.

Feedback Form

At the end of this session, please share your feedback. Your insights help improve the program. **Mentee feedback form:** [Link](#)