



Outcomes Student Action Plan

Introduction

Welcome to Outcomes

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce Outcomes to you and stress the fact that this is a partnership—as a GA immersive student, it is essential to take advantage of the resources available to you and to make a commitment to yourself to see the value in every experience. Today is the beginning of a journey that will continue long after you’ve finished your GA course. You’ve always had what it takes to aim high, but now you’re part of a larger community that values that your drive, and will support you on your way.

You won’t have to go it alone: your Outcomes team will work with you throughout the course to empower you to lead your job search and help you realize your career goals. Our shared goal is for you to pursue a career that is aligned with your passions and the trajectory you envision.

Mission Outcomes is committed to the job preparation of our students and alumni through relevant and meaningful professional development opportunities.

Vision Our vision is put into action through programs and a focus on professional stewardship and activities to prepare, empower and motivate students to achieve career excellence and success.

Our Promise We promise to help you continue to grow in the long-term through meaningful development opportunities that we’ll organize during and after your program. It also means inducting you into a network of people committed to your success and their own: - our alumni network.

Your Promise I promise to embrace the fact that only I am in control of my destiny, and the only person who can guarantee my success is me. This plays largely into achieving your desired outcome. I promise to remember that while changing my life is going to feel hard, scary, and lonely at times, I am never alone. I promise to be a part of making the future of the General Assembly community stronger than it is today by sharing my wisdom, skills, talents, and support with fellow students and alumni.

Outcomes programming

Outcomes offers a variety of programming to assist you in developing the necessary tools to be considered an active job seeker. Here at GA we pride ourselves on innovation and approaching things in a unique and exciting way. This is no different when approaching career development and the process towards achieving outcomes success. We ask that you approach this journey with an open and growth mindset and allow for a new way of tackling the proverbial job search. This is anything but traditional! You will be provided an Outcomes Roadmap that will outline week-over-week programming and assignments. We strongly suggest you bookmark it and refer to it often.

Outcomes student expectations

Maintain your status

You can expect to get out of Outcomes what you put into it. We recommend participation, interaction and communication with your Career Coaches, Immersive Producer, Facilitators, Mentors and Instructors in order to get the full benefit of our services. We promise to help you develop skills, expose you to opportunities, network, and provide continued access to resources that will help you succeed in your job search and career.

As a GA student, you understand the following expectations and deliverables are required to be eligible to receive Outcomes support.

1. **Participation** Throughout your immersive, your Outcomes team will hold multiple Outcomes sessions – a mix of lectures, workshops, and discussions designed to help you develop your job-seeking skills. We understand it can be overwhelming at times BUT it is important to accept that Outcomes is part of your class curriculum and we do expect you to treat it as such.
 - **Academic Requirements** – In order to qualify for Outcomes support you must meet the following requirements:
 - » Miss no more than 4 classes
 - » Complete at least 80% of homework (class and outcomes homework) and receive a passing grade.
 - » Complete all class projects and receive a passing grade.
 - **Outcomes Programming Requirements** - You are required to attend and participate in all mandatory Outcomes sessions.
2. **Network** Learning how to become a part of the community is just as important as anything you'll learn in the classroom. During your immersive, you'll be required to develop your network.
 - You will be expected to get to know students not just from your class but from other classes as well, past and present.
 - You will also be expected to attend at least two meetups and/or networking events during your course (more are encouraged).
3. **Digital presence** You already know how important it is to create and nurture relationships online. That's no less true in the professional world. During your time here, you'll be required to build the following online presences:
 - **LinkedIn Profile (required)** – This is a quick and easy way to expand your network, find new work opportunities, and present your professional self in a clean and straightforward fashion.
 - **GA Profile (required)** – This is an innovative platform that we've created to put you directly in contact with our hiring partners. GA Profiles will be introduced to you around week eight of your program.
 - **Other Social Media Platforms (optional)** – Twitter, Personal Blog (i.e. Tumblr), Instagram, etc. are all great methods for building your online presence, following people and organizations of interest, and expressing your professional point of view. Choose what works for you and be consistent with its usage. While these additional platforms are not required, we do highly encourage them.
4. **Professional brand statement** Does the question, "What do you do?" sound familiar? Your statement should communicate your value proposition and your most authentic self. It tells your story, highlights your strengths, and embodies who you are as a person and professional. Your brand statement sets the tone for your career and begins the professional story you would like to tell. We will dive into this around week three.

5. **Resume** A resume is a quick and concise way to let a potential employer know what you're all about. We will be diving into this around week six. It starts with your brand statement that, in many ways, is like your thesis statement. The content of your resume is the supporting documentation that clearly proves this value proposition. To put your best foot forward, you'll be required to create a resume that has the following:
 - Consistent structure – Don't throw in any big structural or stylistic twists. Find a way to convey your information clearly, and stick to it.
 - List of your skills and experience – Tell your potential employers what you've been doing for the last three months. You've put in a lot of hard work! Show off a little.
 - Active voice – Make it about what you've done, not what has been done by you (hear how weird that sounds?). Your resume should highlight where you are going and not just where you've been.
 - Proper spelling and grammar – Typos make for a bad first impression. The Outcomes team relies on you to copy edit your writing. Please use classmates, family, friends to review your spelling and grammar.
 - Approval – Once you get the final approval from your Outcomes team, your resume is good to go.
6. **Tracking system** As you go about your program and your job search, it's imperative that you keep track of the people you've met, the companies you'd like to target, positions that interest you and you've applied to, and the responses and communications you've received.
 - Personal outcomes tracker – We will provide you with a Google document where you can document this information regularly if not daily. Whether you use this or some other method is up to you as long as you are able to share it with your Career Coach on a regular and consistent basis.
7. **Online portfolio** Your portfolio is your calling card. It's the most crucial piece to your job search. Whether you build it from scratch, use an online service (e.g. Wix, SquareSpace), and/or clean up your GitHub, your portfolio showcases your professional chops and is the culmination of all your hard work. Building your portfolio is an ongoing process and takes a lot of preparation. It should be considered throughout your program.
8. **One-on-one meetings with your career coach** Regular meetings with your career coach are highly encouraged and expected. These 30-minute coaching sessions should have specific discussion points to include updates about your networking and application related activities to allow for, helpful, productive and strategic analysis of your job search.
 - You are required to schedule at least *two* one-on-one meetings with your career coach.
 - » Meeting One (required) – Should be within the first 3 weeks of your program.
 - » Meeting Two (required) – Within the last 2 weeks of your program up until your hiring event. This meeting should include final approvals on Outcomes deliverables.
 - » Additional Meetings (optional) – Students are encouraged to schedule additional coaching sessions throughout their program to discuss strategy and receive advice. Appointments are available on a first-come first-serve basis

9. **Maintain your status post-course** After your immersive program ends, you'll need to treat your job search as a full-time job. In order to make sure you're getting the most out of your job search, you will be required to maintain your job seeker status by doing the following:
- **Daily** – Throughout your search, you must update your Outcomes Student Tracker daily. Include anything your Outcomes team needs to know about your job search related activities, as this will allow them to help you become more strategic.
 - **Weekly** – At a bare minimum, you should spend 25 hours each week on applying, networking, and other pursuits that aid your search. We recommend applying to at least ten appropriate roles each week, participating in networking related activities, and continued development and practice of your skills.
 - **Monthly** – You must attend at least two networking events or informational interviews each month.
 - » **Networking Event** – Any event that provides you with an opportunity to meet and speak with other professionals in your field.
 - » **Informational Interview** – A meeting you set up with members of the local tech community for the purposes of networking, gathering industry insight, and a portfolio review.
 - **Ongoing** – Communication is key. It is important to maintain regular contact with your Outcomes team and keep them apprised of related developments that affect your job search. If your Outcomes team contacts you, you'll be expected to respond to them within 48 hours. If an employer contacts you via GA Profiles, you'll be expected to reply within 24 hours.
10. **Surveys** We know...GA has a lot of surveys. Please take the time to complete them. They usually take no more than a few minutes and the information and feedback you provide is invaluable to assist future students and to provide you with a high quality experience.