Whether you want to gain experience in your field, create job search strategies, or get admitted to the graduate/professional school of your choice, Drake’s Professional and Career Development Services (PCDS) provides the help you need. Career development begins your first year of college and builds with each internship, research study, service project, or part-time job. With locations across campus, PCDS is tailored to Drake’s individual colleges and schools to help you define your career aspirations and reach your professional goals.

Explore Your Options As a Drake student, you will complete rigorous coursework and projects that span various disciplines and bring experience in multiple professions. So, how do you narrow the possibilities? PCDS has many tools to assist with career exploration. For example, career assessments are used to gather information to make career suggestions based on your interests, skills, and values. In addition, PCDS offers counseling to explore the careers available within your areas of study.

Meet Potential Employers PCDS hosts an all-University career fair each spring. Representatives from a multitude of businesses and graduate schools visit campus to meet Drake students. Depending on your major, targeted career fairs might also benefit you. Fairs are held at various times throughout the year for students pursuing degrees in pharmacy, actuarial science, accounting, finance, or government services.

Form a Strategy PCDS offers the following services that you can take advantage of at any point in your academic career:

Networking
PCDS works with the alumni office and employers within the community to provide you with a network of mentors in your chosen field or in a particular geographical area.

Handshake
Handshake is a comprehensive career management system that provides job postings, an online job application process, and mentoring functions.

Résumé/Cover Letter Development
Résumés and cover letters are not one-size-fits-all. PCDS will assist you in developing a résumé and cover letter unique to you and geared toward your chosen field.

Mock Interviews
Mock job interviews can be scheduled with PCDS staff and/or individuals from the community. In addition, mock graduate school interviews are available.
BY THE NUMBERS

Nearly all Drake graduates (98.8% in 2017) find career employment or enter graduate school within six months of receiving their degrees.

Approximately 275 organizations recruit on Drake’s campus during the academic year. Drake students participate in mock interviews, résumé workshops, and multiple career fairs to connect with local and national employers.

More than 96% (Accomplishment Survey 2017) of student of students complete an internship or other practical experience related to their major during their Drake career. The Greater Des Moines community offers many exciting and valuable job opportunities to our students.

Drake alumni live and work worldwide. In the U.S., the biggest concentrations of Bulldogs are located in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, California, Missouri, Colorado, and Arizona.

The largest donation in Drake’s history was made by Dwight D. Opperman, a Drake Law School graduate and retired chief executive officer of West Publishing Company. The amount: $50 million.

More than 20,000 Drake alumni live and work in the Greater Des Moines area, enhancing career connections and internship opportunities for Drake students.

Alumni Success
Drake's more than 74,000 alumni have all kinds of interesting careers:

- **John August**, scriptwriter *(Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Big Fish, Corpse Bride)*
- **George Cohon**, founder and senior chairman, McDonald’s Restaurants of Canada Limited and McDonald’s Russia
- **Michael Emerson**, Emmy-winning actor with starring or recurring roles on the television shows *Person of Interest, Lost*, and *The Practice*
- **Zach Johnson**, professional golfer on the PGA Tour and 2007 Masters Tournament champion
- **Ron McMullen**, former United States ambassador, Eritrea, Africa
- **Franny Starkey Sanguin**, former director of scheduling and advance for First Lady Michelle Obama

Follow @DrakeCareerCntr on Twitter for job and internship opportunities and career updates.