

University of Florida

**CAREER
CONNECTIONS
CENTER**

People are Your Greatest Resource:

Exploring Majors and Careers Through People

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STRENGTHS: Includer | Connectedness | Developer | Belief | Arranger





Our Agenda

- Discuss how “the power of people” can help with your major and career exploration
- Discuss ways to find people that you can consult with regarding your major and career options
- Explore online and campus tools & resources for major and career options
- Learn about how to conduct an Informational Interview

What can I learn from others?

Inside
Information

How to
Prepare

Perspectives

Stories and
Examples

Real-Life
Experience

Unfiltered
Advice



What is Networking?

...the process of actively building relationships with people who share similar interests and activities.



Who is in my network?

Anyone!

Friends

Relatives

Classmates

School Connections

Advisors

Professors

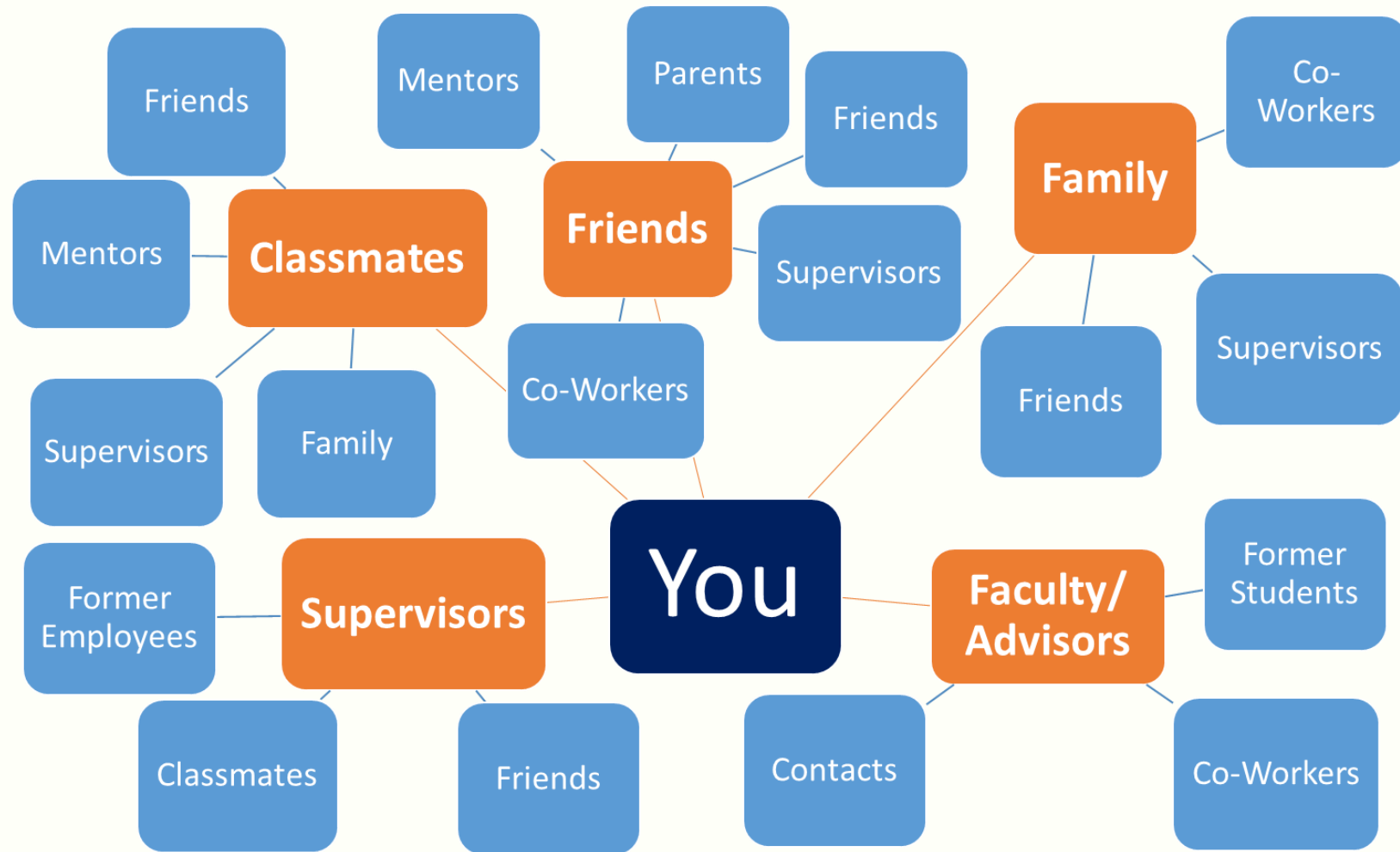
Supervisors

RAs

Co-workers

Your network can be their network too!

Your Contacts' Connections





Establish a Relationship...

Meeting with a Faculty Member

1. Introduce yourself
2. Attend office hours
3. Ask for feedback
4. Identify your career interests
5. Be curious
6. Ask intentional questions
7. Follow-up!



Using LinkedIn to Explore Majors and Careers

LinkedIn interface showing the University of Florida profile and alumni data.

University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida · 272,149+ alumni · 404,937 followers
Go Gators! Visit website

Following

Julia & 62 other connections work here
See all 24,177 employees on LinkedIn

Home
About
Jobs
Alumni
Ads

272,149 alumni
Start year 1900 End year 2019
Search alumni by title, keyword or company

Where they live

Location	Count
United States	255,540
Gainesville, Florida Area	41,538
Miami/Fort Lauderdale Area	28,226
Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida Area	23,298

Where they work

Company	Count
University of Florida	9,071
UF Health	816
Amazon	775
Intel Corporation	718

Show more

Sample Message to Alumni/Current Student

Hello Jason,

My name is Allie Simon and I am a freshman Exploratory student at the University of Florida. I am currently in the process of deciding on my major and exploring my career interests. While using LinkedIn to look for examples of where UF Alumni work after graduation, I came across your profile. I see that you studied Advertising and currently work at Google. I am considering Advertising as a major and I was wondering if you had a few minutes to answer some questions I had about the field? I am looking to gain more insight as I make this important decision.

Thank you for your help in advance! Go Gators!

Your Name



Informational Interviews

An informational interview offers you an opportunity to gather information about a career field, job, or employer in which you are interested.

The *purpose of an informational interview* is to expand your understanding, not to ask for a job or internship.



Informational Interviews

Ways to conduct an informational interview:

- In-person
- Phone
- Skype

*Make sure to ask your contact for the most convenient way to conduct the interview.

Conducting an informational interview will help you actively:

- Secure firsthand information about industries, jobs, work responsibilities, career paths, work settings, and organizational cultures
- Build contacts and referrals for your personal network
- Increase your self-confidence and interviewing skills
- Gather insight for stronger career decisions

What questions do I ask?

- Prepare ahead of time!
- Open-ended vs. Closed Questions
- What information will help you move closer towards a decision?
- Is there anyone else/other information they would recommend?



Your checklist to help you with your follow-up :

- Get their business card
- Timely
- Mention a specific topic you discussed
- Simple, short and straight-forward

Thank You Notes and Following-Up

- Follow up after meeting good contacts:
- Phone Call
- Email
- Thank you note (handwritten or email)
- Connecting on LinkedIn

Synthesizing Your Information

- What “data” did you gain from your conversation?
 - Information
 - Resources/Tools
 - Feelings/Reactions/Energy
 - Next steps
- What “data” are you still missing?
 - What would help you move closer towards making a decision?



How can the Career Connections Center help?

- Career Planning Appointments
- Majors and Minors Fair:
Wednesday, October 14th from 10 AM-2 PM on Career Fair Plus app
- Career Conversations
- C3 Labs (Wandering Map)
- Career Events
- Employer Hosted Events

MAJORS AND MINORS FAIR

Wednesday, October 14, 2020
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Career Fair Plus App

Explore a variety of majors and minors available to you at the University of Florida all in one place. Meet with representatives from more than 35 colleges and departments who will be available to answer your questions about their programs and degree requirements.

Visit career.ufl.edu/majorsfair

UF Career Connections Center
Division of Student Affairs
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



THE DAVID AND WANDA BROWN
CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE
STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT

UF College of Liberal
Arts and Sciences
Academic Advising
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Email Your Follow-up Questions to:

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