Take your ideas for a test drive.

Gather information on career areas of interest so that you can make informed decisions about your future. \textit{Intentionally} choose activities that will allow you to explore and grow personally and professionally.

\textbf{Where and how can I gather more info?}

- Meet with a \textbf{career coach} to discuss resources and opportunities that will help you further explore your career-related interests. Brainstorm ideas for \textbf{complementing your classroom learning with relevant experience} to start filling the gaps in your \textit{résumé}.

- Learn more about career paths that relate to your interests in the following ways:
  - \textbf{Research career paths} that you’re considering through the \href{https://www.bls.gov/ooh/}{Occupational Outlook Handbook}.
  - \textbf{Job shadow} a Messiah alum or personal contact to get an insider’s view into a career.
  - Conduct at least three \textbf{informational interviews} with professionals in your field of interest.
  - Attend \textbf{Pizza with Professionals} events and other career development workshops.
  - Attend the \textbf{Career & Graduate School Expo} in the fall to gather information and talk with recruiters.
  - Invest time in \textbf{building relationships} with educators on campus with whom you share specific interests/passions. Consider seeking a mentor.

- Become familiar with \textbf{FalconJobs}, a centralized database of part-time and full-time employment opportunities. Log-in with your Messiah username and ID number (without the zeros in front!).

\textbf{How should I get engaged?}

- Strategically choose \textbf{activities} on campus that will allow you to \textbf{gain experience} and further develop your transferable skills. \textbf{Employers and grad schools value quality over quantity}, so choose meaningful opportunities.

- Plan for experiential learning opportunities (\textbf{internships}, \textbf{study abroad}, \textbf{service learning}, research opportunities, \textbf{work study options}, and \textbf{student organizations}). \textbf{Data shows} that employers highly value relevant experience regardless of major!

- Establish a profile on \textbf{LinkedIn}. \textbf{See what Messiah alumni are doing} by joining the \href{https://www.linkedin.com/}{Messiah College Professional Network}.

- Begin thinking of \textbf{how you will spend your summer}. What experiences, paid and/or volunteer, will help you build on your experience and continue to develop marketable skill sets in your field of interest?

- Practice \textbf{articulating} the \textbf{transferable skills} you are developing – this will be important when articulating your qualifications to future employers or graduate schools.

\textbf{Reflection Q’s}

- What experiences might be valued to a prospective employer or grad school?
- How can I apply what I’m learning in the classroom while developing meaningful experience?
- Am I focusing on quality rather than quantity?