**1st Semester: EXPLORE CAMPUS RESOURCES**
Familiarize yourself with Career Services’ resources
- Sign up for the PennDesign Career Services listserv
- Set up a meeting with a Career Advisor to walk-through resources
- Explore CV/resume guides & artist-specific resources by career field webpages
- Investigate funding page and funding database resources on CS website
- Look at Career Services “Penn and Beyond” blog
- Review Career Plans Surveys on website

Join professional associations and clubs on campus
- College Art Association (CAA)
- American Association of Museums (AAM)
- Association of Arts Administration Educators (AAAE)
- Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
- PennDesign & Penn Alumni LinkedIn groups
- PennDesign MFA Forum Blog and Facebook group

Attend Career Services events to network with alumni and faculty
- MFA Career Programs
- Academic Career Conference programs on faculty careers

**2nd Semester: RESIDENCY/GRANT SEARCH**
Review your application materials
- Review residency/grant and other application materials with a Career Advisor
- Apply for MFA Extended Studio Program to teach your own class
- Connect with faculty and alumni to identify residency/grant opportunities

Focus on professional development of skills
- Prepare for Presentations at Institute of Contemporary Art (Apr)
- Explore options for 3rd elective requirement to expand on professional skills
- Use Penn’s subscription to lynda.upenn.com to learn how to make a website

Attend Career Services events
- MFA Alumni discussion panel
- Faculty Conversations on the Academic Job Search
- Social media for graduate students (networking and branding)
- PennDesign Resume Writing Workshop (Feb)

Apply for professional summer experiences
- Schedule a mock interview with a Career Advisor
- Ask 2nd year students about their summer break experiences
- Prepare to work in studios on campus or in residencies off campus

**3rd Semester: FOCUS**
Update your CV/resume to include summer experiences
- List your summer accomplishments
- Update and focus on your online portfolio/website with resources from the Weingarten Learning Resources Center, and lynda.upenn.edu

Build your network
- Start lining up your professional references
- Tap into your existing network: let your contacts know your career plans
- Speak with a Career Advisor to develop tailored strategies for your career development over the coming year; explore some career alternatives
- Reference the PennDesign employer contact database for possible contacts
- Use QuakerNet/LinkedIn to identify Penn-specific contacts who can provide advice
- Speak with visiting artists and lecturers about their career paths

Attend Career Services events
- MFA Career Programs
- Academic Career Conference programs on faculty careers

Use resources provided by Career Services
- Explore resources by career field webpages and online subscriptions

**4th Semester: CAREER DEVELOPMENT**
Prepare for life after graduation
- Speak with a Career Advisor about how to make and keep professional contacts gained through MFA Thesis Exhibition
- Network with alumni on the PennDesign Alumni LinkedIn group & QuakerNet

Continue to focus on career development and exploration of career opportunities
- Prepare for Presentations at Institute of Contemporary Art (Apr)
- Review your portfolio with PennDesign Alumni Association (PDAA) members
- Prepare for PennDesign Career Connection Day (Mar), and research career fair employers relevant to MFAs ahead of time

Attend Career Services events
- MFA Alumni discussion panel
- Faculty Conversations on the Academic Job Search
- PennDesign Resume Writing Workshop (Feb)

Interview, negotiate, accept advertised positions; becoming an independent artist
- Schedule a mock interview with a Career Advisor; talk about offer negotiation
- Become a part of the PennDesign Alumni Association
- Thank your references; fill out the PennDesign Career Plans Survey

**MASTER OF FINE ARTS development plan**