Congratulations, you have one year under your belt. You have survived the full year of FYS and taken many entry level courses experimenting with different majors. Although you are not an upperclass student, there are a few important things you need to begin thinking about: your major, whether or not to study abroad, graduate school and even looking ahead to a summer job or internship.

**MAJORS:** If you are still undecided, this is the semester to seek assistance. Most departments require sophomores to apply for majors at the beginning of spring semester; some departments may have earlier deadlines. Here are some ways to help you with the process...

- Attend a CES (Career Exploration Series). This is a panel put on for students with alums who come back to talk about their current position, their past experiences, and how their major helped prepare them for their current position
- Go to events/panels put on through your interested department
- Brainstorm possible careers you’re interested in and use our online “What can I do with a major in...” information to see what majors best suit your interests and skills
- Conduct informational interviews and arrange job shadows to learn about majors/jobs
- Utilize our online list of alum profiles and see the many different jobs our alums have within a certain major

**STUDY ABROAD:** Talk to your academic advisor and parents about studying abroad for either a semester or short-term program during junior or senior year. You will need to be responsible for asking a couple of key questions:

- Will you get required classes fulfilled on the trip?
- Will you complete your necessary classes here at school to graduate on time, or will you need to consider summer courses or an extended stay here at CSB/SJU?
- Why are you interested in studying abroad? How will it be helpful to you?

It would be beneficial to attend a “Study Abroad 101” information session and check out the Office of Education Abroad (OEA) website to see which program would best suit your interests and needs.

- There is usually a “Study Abroad Fair” in November.

**GRAD SCHOOL:** It is not too early to begin thinking about whether or not grad school is on the horizon. Some occupational areas require an advanced degree and have specific admission requirements that must be completed for admission.

- Have conversations with your professors and adviser about different options for programs and schools and the requirements they are looking for
- Develop a 4-year plan to ensure that you are prepared to apply when you are a senior.
- Most graduate schools like to see that students have conducted research and have related experience. Talk with your professors about possible research opportunities here at CSB/SJU or at other institutions during the summers.

**SUMMER EXPERIENCES:** It may seem early, but it’s not too early to start exploring summer opportunities that give you an inside look to a possible career, equip you with related experience, and look great on your resume. Some of these experiences may have a deadline as early as early as October/November.

- Internship (paid or unpaid, the experience is what matters)
- Research position in your interested field (some are available through CSB/SJU)
- Volunteer positions (possibly in addition to a typical summer job to gain additional related experience for your future career)

In addition to Career Services, use the Internship Office, E-link, professors, advisors, friends of your family, neighbors, and others!

Oofta! This all sounds like a lot, but if you actively work on figuring out your major, consider studying abroad and graduate school, and look into summer opportunities, things will begin to fall into place. Don’t put it off like that research paper for FYS; I promise, it’s not NEARLY as bad!