

Brandeis University

Junior-Year Reflective Guide

Junior year is a peak year for student leadership and for firming up your academic plans for your undergraduate career. After having declared your major and experiencing college life in the previous two years, students are now prepared to take their involvement on campus to the next level and to start preparing for their options after they graduate Brandeis.

Milestone 1: First Semester:

- Now that I have declared my major, am I happy with my choice? If not, it is not too late to switch majors. If yes, am I taking the right classes for me? Do I know what remaining courses I need to take for my major?
- Have I met with my faculty advisor(s) to talk about whether or not to complete a senior thesis, or another minor?
- Have I checked to see what courses I still need to take for my general education requirements?
- Have I explored social justice/international/national/community issues both in and out of the classroom? What kind of experiences can I pursue to help prepare me for engagement in the global community?
- Is there a way for me to take my extra-curricular involvement in clubs to the next level? What leadership positions does this club offer? What do I have to offer to the club?
- Which other faculty and staff members do I want to get to know? How will I go about this?
- Have I consulted with the Hiatt Career Center? Hiatt can help with graduate school decisions and personality/type focus tests to figure out where our strengths and weaknesses lie, and ultimately help us figure out what career areas to consider.
 - Am I looking for an internship in the field I'm interested in? How do I go about doing that?
 - What sort of extra-curricular experiences can lend towards my search for a career in a specific field?

Milestone 2: Second Semester:

- If I'm considering studying abroad fall of my senior year, have I met my deadline?
- Should I do an honors thesis? Have I identified my senior thesis advisor?
- What would I like to be doing post-graduation? Do I want to take a year off? Do I want to work? Do I want to go to graduate school?
- If I want to go to a graduate school, what tests should I be taking/preparing for? (GRE, LSAT, MCAT, GMAT, etc).