



GETTING STARTED IN PRACTICE

There's a good chance you chose to study design at the BAC for the opportunity to earn your degree while working in the field simultaneously. While admission is open and registering for classes is fairly easy, getting involved in Practice can be a daunting challenge for even the savviest student. Fortunately the Practice Department and Learning Resource Center (LRC) are available to help you enter, and move through, the design workforce. Of course no two BAC students' paths into Practice are the same, but here is a checklist for those of you just starting out.

SEMESTER 1: Ready...

- Get adjusted to your design education, do well in all your classes, and establish a strong reputation for yourself amongst your growing design community network. What will your classmates say about your design skills? What will your teachers say about your work habits? What will your advisor say about your ability to meet administrative deadlines? These are the people you will later rely upon to find work.
- Complete CityLab.
- Using the BAC Career Services documents as a guide, create a design résumé, sample cover letter, and references page. Have them reviewed by LRC and/or Practice.

SEMESTER 2: Set...

- Complete Community Practice.
- Revise résumé, sample cover letter, and references page. Have them reviewed again by LRC and/or Practice. Revise further, and finalize.
- Guided by your design studios and/or Community Practice class, create a portfolio and work samples pages. Have them reviewed by LRC and/or Practice.
- Begin checking job listings on [PracticeLab](#), the [BSA website](#), and design firms' websites ("Jobs," "Employment," or "Careers" pages). Even if you're not yet applying, begin to familiarize yourself with the types of positions, their requirements, and the design job search process and language.
- Create a positive and professional online identity: LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- Get involved with the BSA, AIAS, ASID, IIDA, BSLA, SASLA, Atelier, etc.
- Read design magazines and Blogs.
- Network, network, network: BAC and non-BAC related events, lectures, gallery openings; your "unrelated" job (restaurants, retail, etc.); family, friends, parties, weddings; etc.

SEMESTER 3 and beyond: GO!

- Revise portfolio and work samples pages. Have them reviewed again by LRC and/or Practice. Revise further, and finalize.
- Continue learning new skills (update your résumé as you do). The more you know, the more quickly you'll find a job in a design firm.
- Continue networking. This is how the vast majority of BAC students find work!
- Begin applying and interviewing for jobs in design firms while you...
 - Get a job in a related field.
 - Participate in a Gateway Project.
 - Participate in a design competition.
 - Do an independent Practice opportunity.
 - Volunteer.
- Once you begin any Practice credit-earning opportunity, be sure to submit a [Practice Registration Form](#).