FRESHMAN TIMELINE – Discovering and Investigating

As freshmen, the last thing on your mind is probably your career. However, this is a great time to start discovering what your interests are. You may also realize the areas that you will most likely avoid. Career development is a lifelong journey, and here are some steps that you can take to begin.

− One of the major topics you want to conquer right now is discovering what opportunities are out there and what you truly enjoy doing (other than watching TV and sleeping). If you like something, question what it is about that activity you enjoy.

− Along the same lines, if you don’t enjoy something, what is it about the activity could you do without? Answering and questioning these seemingly easy and obvious questions can help you get at the root of what interests you.

− Toss ideas around (no matter how crazy) and begin to figure out ways to understand the pros and cons of majors and/or researching career fields.

− Even if you don’t like your classes, take them seriously! Start to develop a strong GPA!

− Discover involvement opportunities on or off campus to test out areas that you enjoy. This will help you find a major that is compatible for you. Develop marketable skills that employers will desire.

− It is important to start your resume at this point to have a document ready and available for use.

− Think about attending career related events (we know, it probably seems way too early). This will help you get an idea of what types of companies you might like or dislike and will help you get a feel for the world of work.

− Activate your Orangelink account http://careerservices.syr.edu/employer/employer_orangelink.html to get connected to additional opportunities to develop your skills.

− We invite you to visit the Center for Career Services http://careerservices.syr.edu/undergraduates/to work with a Career Counselor to begin to understand where this all fits in for you and where it might lead.